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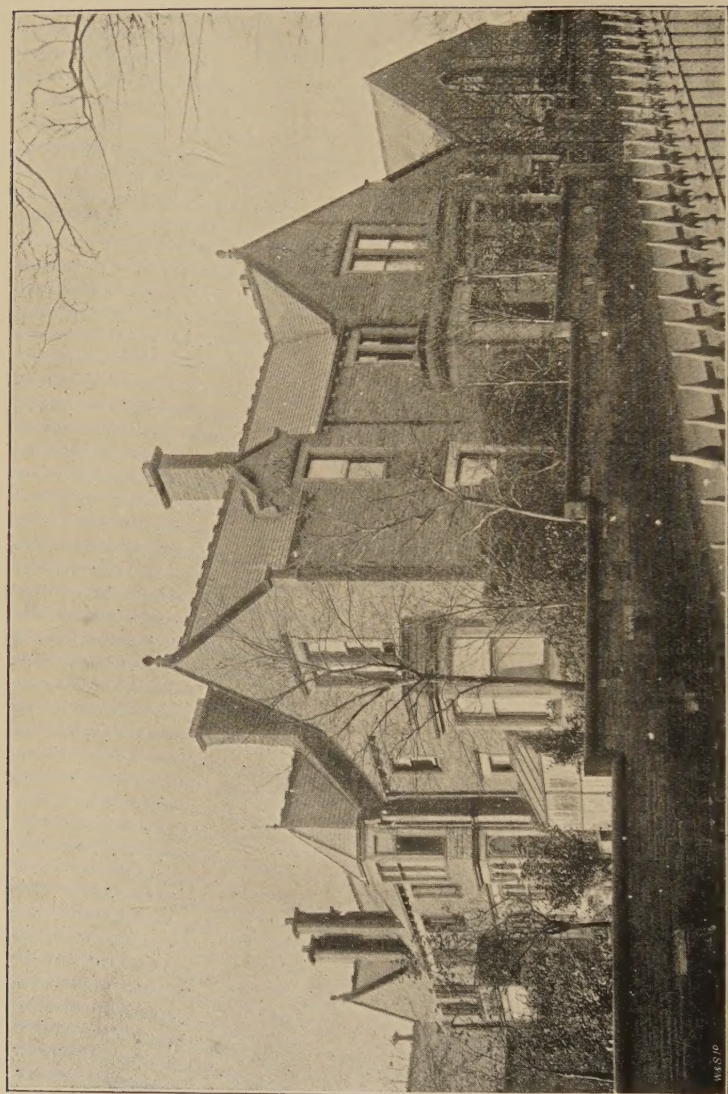
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BLACKBURN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.



A VIEW OF THE SCHOOL AND MASTER'S RESIDENCE.

Showing a Gable of the Gymnasium and a part of the Assembly Hall.

A HISTORY
OF THE
BLACKBURN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

FOUNDED A.D. 1514.



WITH AN INTRODUCTION.

BY JOHN GARSTANG,

*Scholar of Jesus College, Oxford; Tattersall Exhibitioner of the Blackburn
Grammar School.*

Blackburn :

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MDCCCXCVII.

TO

My Father.

*“ Which way he turn attends him still one voice,
Majestic, sov'reign, mild ! Give me thy heart
‘ My son ! ’ ”*

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THE PREFACE.

THE substance of this short History appeared in the columns of the "Blackburn Weekly Standard and Express" during the Summer months of 1895. The whole has been re-arranged, and a considerable portion re-written, to meet the advantages afforded by this method of publication.

The introductory chapters contain some notes on the earliest Social and Educational History of Blackburn. This subject has proved so fascinating to the author—the district abounding in many remains of true historic value, Abbeys, Battlefields, Encampments, and the like—that he has been led to extend these researches into a wider field, and has gladly accepted an invitation to publish his results in the near future. Indeed, since this volume was written, a more careful scrutiny of facts, and comparison of records, might have induced him, upon consideration, here to modify, there to extend, some of the statements made herein. In the main portion of the book, however, no pains have been spared to render the work entirely free from error; for only

so can it prove of real usefulness. As an illustration of the difficulties that have been encountered, it may be mentioned that at times, in writing of the early history of the School especially, no direct record has been obtainable, save what might be gleaned from the formal pages of an early cash-book. If any other information has transpired, it has been either the result of accident or the outcome of a diligent turning over the pages of volumes likely to yield a reference.

In addition to the many books that have been briefly scanned for the general outline of any relevant subject, those to which copious reference has been made (sometimes perhaps without due acknowledgment) in the compilation of this volume, include: Whittaker's "History of Manchester," Whitaker's "History of Whalley," Whittle's "Blackburn As It Is," Baines' "History of Lancashire," and that laborious work the "History of Blackburn," by W. A. Abram; also the "Imperial Dictionary of Universal Biography" (Waller), "The Complete Dictionary" (Barlow), "The New Biographical Dictionary" (Cassell), "The Life and Death of Mr. Bolton" (E.B.); the valuable papers on "Education" by Oscar Browning, and on "Monachism" by Littledale, in the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

The author desires to thank all those Old-Boys and others who have contributed to the completeness of this work; also the Head-Master and the Secretary, for many facilities readily afforded him. Among his College friends, Mr. J. P. Maine has with great kindness and patience revised the manuscript transcriptions; whilst, at his initiative, the members of the Thirteen Club have devoted many nights to a thorough

investigation of the modes of warfare employed by the Ancient Briton. He takes this opportunity to pay a tribute to the unfailing courtesy of Mr. W. H. Burnett, Editor and Manager of the "Weekly Standard and Express" and of the "Lancashire Daily Express."

J. G.

Spring-Well House,
Blackburn,
June 22nd, 1897.



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Part i.

THE

HISTORY OF FOUR CENTURIES,

WITH

AN INTRODUCTION.

γενοίμαν ἴν' ὑλᾶεν ἔπεστι ποντου
προβλημ' ἀλίκλυστον, ἄκραν
ὑπὸ πλάκα Σουινίου
τὰς ἱεράς ὕπως
προσείπομεν' Ἀθάνας.

—*Sophocles.*

History of the Blackburn Grammar School.

CHAPTER I.—INTRODUCTION.

The Race of Hengist is gone—
The name of Horsa is no more !
Shrink not then from your doom, sons of the sword !
Let your blades drink blood like wine,
Feast ye in the banquet of slaughter,
By the light of the blazing halls !
Strong be your swords while your blood is warm,
And spare neither for pity nor fear,
For vengeance hath but an hour ;
Strong hate itself shall expire.—*Ivanhoe*.

IT is now nearly two thousand years since Julius Cæsar first sought to attach Britain to the then vast Roman Empire : it is from the completion of that great invasion, more than a century later, or early in the Christian era, that Blackburn dates its origin.

The eye of fancy may picture to itself a large undulating tract of country, brown and green with its garb of interminable forests. Piercing the apparent solitude, it may chance to see here or there a sign of habitation, of human life—a glimpse, maybe, of some stalwart, haughty savage returning from his hunt. Following his trail, the eye lights upon his rude homestead, where the interlacing of twigs and leaves

provides all the necessary shelter for himself and his family. With wider glance, it may observe the habits of his tribe, their customs, their institutions, and the dark ritual of their mysterious religion of Druidism. It may notice the wild gleam of their eyes at the prospect of present strife, their reckless contempt of death on the field of battle, their inhuman cruelty in the hour of victory, and their meekness before the presence of the minister of their dread beliefs; or gaze with horror on the Druid calmly seeking portents of the future in the death-struggles of his human sacrifice. Thus does Time present to us the Brigantes—a people of that dauntless courage, that heroic fortitude, that ineradicable love of freedom, and that patriotism which isolation and solitude engender; whose souls' ambition was to die in arms, and who were strangely subject to the superstitions of their religion. Such was the people, which for over a thousand years preserved an exclusive independence, and of which History has no direct record; and such was the wild district which could not but accentuate the native character, of which Topography can hardly decide whether it was a part of Wales, or a part of Deira, or later a part of Northumbria, and which at the present day is one of the most congested haunts of Labour.

In the year 79 Agricola, with his invincible army, having occupied Chester and subjugated York, in the course of his determined invasion of the North-West portion of the island, commenced to build his military road from Manchester to Ribchester. It is a point not satisfactorily decided whether this connector of Mancunium and Rigodunum was that known as the Tenth Iter of Antoninus. It passed over a wild tract of country, now marshy, now bleak and rugged, now clad in well-nigh impenetrable forest. Nor did Nature alone present difficulties; for in addition to the fastnesses of the country, there was to be faced the wild savagery of its denizens, the Brigantes, who in the fierce battle, daily joined, bitterly opposed their bodies to this ingress of their father-

land. But it was the pitting of the indomitable courage and religious frenzy of the native against the cold practised steel of the Roman. The imperial legions were proof against assault, and bore down opposition.

So the work advanced: and in a certain vale, shrouded by woods of stunted trees and frowned on by bleak heights, where the road crossed a tiny rivulet, was erected a small fortification. This was the foundation of Blackburn.

For three and a-half centuries Britain remained under the sway and protection of Rome. The complete pacification of districts so inaccessible as were many of those in the North-West must have been found well-nigh impossible; but in the vicinity of the Romish centres great change was effected in the native disposition. The arms once so fiercely offensive became in time merely defensive, and eventually were rejected entirely. The people once so hostile and savage became agrarian and peace-loving, trusting implicitly for safety to the imperial arm of civilization. With what result? The Roman Empire becoming unwieldy, and the state tottering on giddy heights, the legions were withdrawn; and, pressing hard on their retreating footsteps, the wild marauding Picts, with those Britons who through the several centuries of foreign yoke had maintained an aggressive independence, raged in now unchecked lawlessness throughout the unprotected land, blotting out every trace of the hand of Rome and of civilization. The fair walled towns were carried by assault, and the defenceless inhabitants buried in the ruins. The country reverted to its pre-Roman darkness and Paganism.

In this rapine disappeared the earliest monument of Blackburn, together with everything Roman in the vicinity. Henceforth for nearly a thousand years it was to be a haunt of solitude, an abode of independence. There are no contemporary records, nor were even the traditions of the district chronicled, with any degree of system or authenticity, until the Cistercian monks seated themselves on the Calder, late in the thirteenth century.

The history of Blackburn proper dates from some period of the fifth or sixth century, when

. . . “(Sad relief !) from the bleak coast that hears
The German Ocean roar, deep-booming, strong
And yellow hair’d, the blue-eyed Saxon came.”

Who were the first settlers in the place cannot accurately be stated: maybe a small band of Romano-British refugees, seeking safety in solitude ; maybe a few stout Saxons, lured by the impregnability that Nature afforded the position. Whoever they might be, certain it is that Solitude and Freedom, their heart’s desires, were strenuously sought and successfully maintained throughout several stormy centuries. Early in the sixth century there was erected a small church—almost on the present site of the Church of St. Marie—as a result of the Christian influence of Paulinus. But evidence is not wanting that the edifice was secured for private use, and privately maintained, to emphasise the seclusion of some freeman lord whose devotions were conducted within its walls: that it so remained at the time of the Norman Conquest the “Doomsday Book” testifies. The reason for this apparent neglect haply may be gleaned from the notes of John Lyndelay, fifth Abbot of Whalley, a careful and faithful recorder, who, writing of the foundation of Whalley Church, A.D. 596, says :

. . . “After these things, the devotion of the faithful increasing, and the number of believers in those parts being augmented, there were built other three churches in Blagborneshire,—namely, the Church of Blagborne, the Church of Chepen, and the Church of Ribchester,—the parishes of these churches being distinct, and marked in certain limits on all sides, as they have continued to the present time, and are well known to all in those parts. In those times, while the said churches had thus been built, there was not, in Blagborneshire, at Cliderhowe, or elsewhere, a castle built, nor any chapel whatever besides the above-named churches, nor any lord who had ever claimed the patronage of the said churches or any of them; but each rector held and possessed the land and vill in which his church was situated, and governed the church, as endowed, as if it were his own patrimony and inheritance ; and freely appointed his successor from among his sons or friends. The cause of which is thought likely to be, that at the time of the founding of this church, and through times long subsequent, the people of those

parts were so sparse, and so untamed and wild, and moreover, there was such a multitude of foxes and hurtful beasts, the bishops and their officers left, and continually committed the whole jurisdiction to the rectors, on account of the inconvenience specified. . . . Who held the lordship of Blagborneshire before the time of the said King William is not stated with certainty in the chronicles. Common opinion holds and asserts, that as many as were the vills or mansions, or the manors of men, so many were the lords, not only in Blagborneshire, but all the adjacent neighbourhood."

The Saxon chronicles, says Whittle, record that "In 701, the inhabitants of Blagborne fought hardly, and made a vigorous stand against the Danish invaders. The people defended their wooden domiciles (timber with gable crooks filled with puddled clay and straw), or homesteads; but the place was nearly burnt down when there were not above fifty houses in it."*

"Blagborne was an obscure villa in the feudal ages of Edward the Confessor, A.D. 975. The parish church of St. Marie's the inn of the Lord, and the abode of the parson, were the only buildings of any note. The domiciles or huts of the inhabitants were slenderly erected of crooks pegged together, clay plaster, and straw-thatched roofs. They were a stout and active race of people, deeply attached to hunting. Deer and other kinds of game were plentiful."

The Doomsday Book of the Conqueror affords another glimpse of this ancient villa, whose curious history is rendered so attractive by reason of its obscurity. A thousand years has made little change in the scene. The trees are sparser on the northern slope, and bleakness is more apparent; but beyond a great forest trends northwards as of old, while in the vale itself woods of no inconsiderable size preserve the primitive aspect. The small church, rebuilt, half wood, half stone, and the adjacent residence of the Lorde de Blagbourne,

* This quotation is made from Whittle's "Blackburn As It Is." In spite of the fact that in neither of the accepted versions of the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" is there any record under date 701, it is incredible that a writer so careful about his facts—however obscurely expressed—would make so detailed a statement without some written authority.

present novel features, while upon the hill-sides may be seen here and there the scattered homesteads of twenty-eight freemen.

The village's infancy is ended; the adolescent stage begins; intellectual enlightenment is at hand.

“ Behold
Where on the Ægean shore a city stands
Built nobly, pure the air, and light the soil—
Athens the eye of Greece, mother of arts
And eloquence.
; There Ilissus rolls
His whispering stream: within the walls then view
The schools of ancient sages.”

Through the ages have predominated two great schools of education—the Greek and the Latin. For the former, in the words of Plato, “Socrates always found his readiest listeners in the Athenian Palæstra”: in the midst of sports and trials of strength the youth of Athens was ever ready to discuss the good and virtuous with the sage philosophers. A passion for oratory and elegance of rhetoric, characterised the Roman; no means were to be spared to attain that end; in the words of Cicero, “Anyone can make himself a juris-consult in a week, but an orator is the production of a life time.” Philosophy was the aspiration of the one, philanthropy the emulation of the other. But most powerful of all was the Grecian principle of self-culture, which, seeming to triumph amid the vicissitudes of its masters, has withstood so well the test of time. Although Athens became Roman (some centuries before the Imperial arms, Hydra-like, encircled Britain), and the two schools remained largely distinct, yet had the conquered also a victory. Freely as the Greek penetrated the Latin cities, proud and downcast he

. “ Stood
Among them, but not of them; in a shroud
Of thoughts that were not their thoughts.”

The Roman sage, however, was not slow to realize the refined culture of subject Athens, and thus did Roman Letters

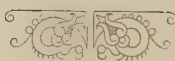
receive the stimulus that raised it to its greatness of the ensuing centuries.

With the departure of the Legions and the withdrawal of Roman protection from England, the country generally became merged once more in the slough of ignorance: of education there was none, of enlightenment there was but a trace—the outcome of courageous individual effort. Nor was this relapse confined to England alone. With the gradual decline of Roman influence, there spread over the whole of Europe the black mantle of the Dark Ages; until at length, Rome and Athens both dead, that so many centuries had fostered an untold wealth of Literature and Art, in peril Letters lay slumbering, and in the great continental monasteries of Monte Cassino, Fulda, and Tours, alone could be seen a flicker of the torch of learning.

For England, the reaction of the Middle Ages came with the Conqueror: a system of education might be found both in castle and in cloister. In the one the young knight was trained in chivalry: therein he learned to ride, swim, use the bow, box, hawk, play chess, compose ballads; subject ever to a lady's smile or frown—the abomination of the opposite faction. The programme of the monks included grammar, dialectics, rhetoric, music, arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy; the whole being accompanied by an indiscriminate and barbarous use of physical violence. "Hatred of learning, antagonism between teacher and taught, the belief that no training can be effectual which is not repulsive and distasteful, that no subject is proper for instruction which is acquired with pleasure—all these idols of false education have their origin in monkish cruelty."

It was in 1178 that a body of the influential order of Cistercian monks seated themselves at Stanlaw in Cheshire. After a lapse of a century, their premises becoming dangerous by reason of the flood-waters of the Mersey, and inconvenient through the growth of their own community, they sought and found, under the guidance of Henry de Lacy, one of the

fairest of Nature's sites on the banks of the Calder in Whalley, and there in 1296 commenced to erect the noble Abbey, whose ruins to-day testify to its former grandeur. Ten years later saw them there domiciled, and with that date, 1306, begins the history of education in the former wilds and solitudes of Northumbria.



CHAPTER II.—THE CISTERCIAN INFLUENCE.

A Monk there was, a fayre for the maistrie,
An outrider that loved venerie ;
A manly man to be an Abbott able,
Full many a daintie horse had he in stable :
And when he rode men might his bridle hear
Gingeling in a whistling wind as clear,
And eke as loud, as doth the chapell bell,
There as his lord was keeper of the cell.—*Chaucer.*

TWO features of interest present themselves in the early history of Blackburn. One is the slowness of growth—almost stagnation—of the village ; which, though of Saxon antiquity, could claim at the time of the Conquest only twenty-eight resident families, and at the end of the twelfth century barely one hundred. A possible explanation of this may, however, be found in the tradition that the village in its infancy was ravaged by fire. The other lies in the pristine sequestration of the district, by which its first denizens were enabled to maintain an aggressive independence for many hundred years, and those who eventually settled therein to preserve their absolute freedom long after the submission of other parts of Northumbria to regal authority. Sunk in a deep vale, surrounded by hills, shaded by dense forests, it was well calculated for the lurking place of men defying Feudal vassalage, of “Robin Hoods” strong in limb and stout of heart, of sons of toil and darkness.

Reference has already been made to the outer-world opinion of the district, with its inhabitants “so untamed and wild,” at the time of the founding of its church in the seventh century. Another suggestion, or even corroboration of this extreme isolation presents itself in the comparative paucity of detail in the Domesday Book record of The Hundred of Blackburn—an account showing signs of hasty

and incomplete survey. A further illustration, more striking from its social aspect, and almost incredible in its naïveté, may aptly be here introduced. It pertains to the Elizabethan epoch, at which time Blackburn, boasting five thousand inhabitants, an Anglican Church, and a chartered Grammar School, was fast merging into a brisk market-town of agricultural industry. In the course of a tour of the North-West in 1607, Camden, Topographer and Historian, having advanced in person to within nine miles of Blackburn, writes of it as being "a part of the country beyond the mountains, towards the Western sea, almost foreign and hardly civilized."

"Away! our journey lies through dell and dingle,
Where the blithe fawn trips by its timid mother,
Where the broad oak with intercepting boughs,
Chequers the sunbeam in the greensward alley—
Up and away!—for lovely paths are these
To tread."

The Arcadian groves rivalled! Pan, jealous god, where art thou? Blackburn! do thy homage at Minerva's shrine; that, propitious towards the slumbering hamlet, and mindful of her former triumph, she combats a second time the hoary Neptune, and rebuilds on neighbouring soil the walls that his trident undermined—so seating the Ministers of Learning amid thine earliest unillumined youth!

It was in 1306 that the consecration took place of Whalley Abbey, the new home of the Cistercian monks from Stanlaw. They were not first in the district: brethren of a rival order at Sawley had preceded them more than a century. The two houses early became estranged, and it was but natural that the pious efforts of the new-comers should be directed mostly to fields remote from those already subject to another influence. The Cistercians did not now uphold their ancient tenet of seclusion. Thus again was Blackburn fortunate. At once among its hundred families commenced the education and elevation of mind inseparable from an enlightened social intercourse; and at the same time ceased the reign of darkness for those rustic yeomen, whose only

education before-time was the woodman's or the warrior's art, whose only book the morning dew-tracks and the portents of the evening sky, whose only enlightenment through many dim centuries had been one faint chance spark of Christianity smouldering in their midst.

The patronage of the Church at Blackburn being ceded to the Cistercians, there was immediate necessity for their presence—with conjoint scope for their influence—in the locality. It is true that for several centuries devotions in the Church of St. Marie had been regularly observed, but these were probably of a private nature—rather for the lord of the time than for the people.

The earliest attempt at any definite form of education in Blackburn may be said with tolerable accuracy to date from 1321. It was the foundation and endowment of the first Chantry that marked the commencement of the new era; for in connection with such it was ever the custom to train boys to “sing in sweet melody and in concert;” and on the authority of the historian Dugdale, “the Cistercian monks were always considered as the fathers of the people, and were charitable in an eminent degree to the hinds of this part. They had a school wherein was taught chanting and plain song, for the services of the church at mass, vespers and complin.” It is thus possible that as early as the fourteenth century there existed a building set apart as a song school, which in the course of time was utilized by the monks for expounding the first rudiments of knowledge also. This institution, however, cannot have been in existence in 1514, for at this date a Grammar and Song School was founded on a basis similar to that conjectured in this instance. Thus it probably disappeared with the Chantry, of which no mention is made by the Commissioners of Henry VIII. There is, indeed, a record of dubious nature that in 1451 a Song and Grammar School received “kindnesses” at the hands of the Earl of Derby. There can be no doubt, however, that during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries there existed an

institution, however crude and primitive, under the care of the Cistercian monks from Whalley. Else, why should recognised authorities state that the "Ancient Grammar School of Blackburn was ably supported by the Cistercian monks?"—accepting the usual assumption that the first school of the village was the gift of the Earl of Derby in 1514. For not twenty years from that date was directed the first blow of an assault destined to sweep the monasteries from existence, and to scatter the monks vagrant through the land.

Social Blackburn owes much to the Cistercian influence during these two centuries. The monks' first coming found the denizens of the ancient hamlet living, as for generations their fathers had lived, the wild free life of foresters. Two hundred years of their enlightening presence saw Blackburn being transformed into a small market village, and its inhabitants gradually exchanging their life of toil and hardship for the congenial one of agriculture. Archery, once so essential to their being, long remained their pastime: indeed for that purpose the Yew-tree was an object of their special care. The "Yeomen of Blagborne" are reputed to have received on the field of battle praises from King Henry V. and King Henry VIII. Their character was primitive—keen instinctive comprehension was supported by indomitable energy, and coupled with superstitious ignorances and little-world prejudices. The natural isolation was conducive to ignorance, that, primarily social, became technical as times advanced. [It were interesting to conjecture how far the accepted traits of Lancashire Folk may be ascribed to a primitive cause.]

Such were the people of Blackburn in the early sixteenth century. The Grammar School was founded in 1514: the additional benefit so long derived from the monastic proximity might not long survive this innovation. Already strange whispers were exchanged for stranger looks: the king's conscience was peculiar—his purse empty also—

and his ministers were unscrupulous. In 1535 the smaller monasteries succumbed: the others, too, were doomed. In vain did watch-fires on the English hills summon the Pilgrimage of Grace: within three years there disappeared from the face of the country those institutions whose parents alone are to be thanked for the preservation of Letters through the Dark Ages; and which, however corrupt internally, in the progressive Middle Age were yet the centres of learning. Guilty of treason, John Paslew, the last of the Abbots of Whalley—who of them all was perhaps Blackburn's greatest friend—was hanged at his Abbey gate.

“A sad, sad change hath come over the fair Abbey of Whalley. It knoweth its old masters no longer. The grave monk walketh no more in the cloisters, nor seeketh his pallet in the dormitory. Vesper or Matin-song resound not as of old within the fine conventual church. Stripped are the altars of their silver crosses, and the shrines of their votive offerings and saintly relics. Pyx and chalice, thurible and vial, golden-headed pastoral staff, and mitre embossed with pearls, candlestick and Christmas ship of silver; salver, basin, and ewer—all are gone—the splendid sacristy hath been bespoiled.

“A sad, sad change hath come over Whalley Abbey. In the plenitude of its pride and power hath it been cast down, desecrated, despoiled. Its treasures are carried off, its ornaments sold, its granaries emptied, its possessions wasted, its storehouses sacked, its cattle slaughtered and sold.”

The sacred tapers' lights are gone,
Grey moss has clad the altar stone,
The holy image is o'erthrown,
The bell has ceased to toll;
The long-ribb'd aisles are burst and shrunk,
The holy shrines to ruin sunk,
Departed is the pious monk,
God's blessing on his soul!

CHAPTER III.—THE PRISTINE INSTITUTION.

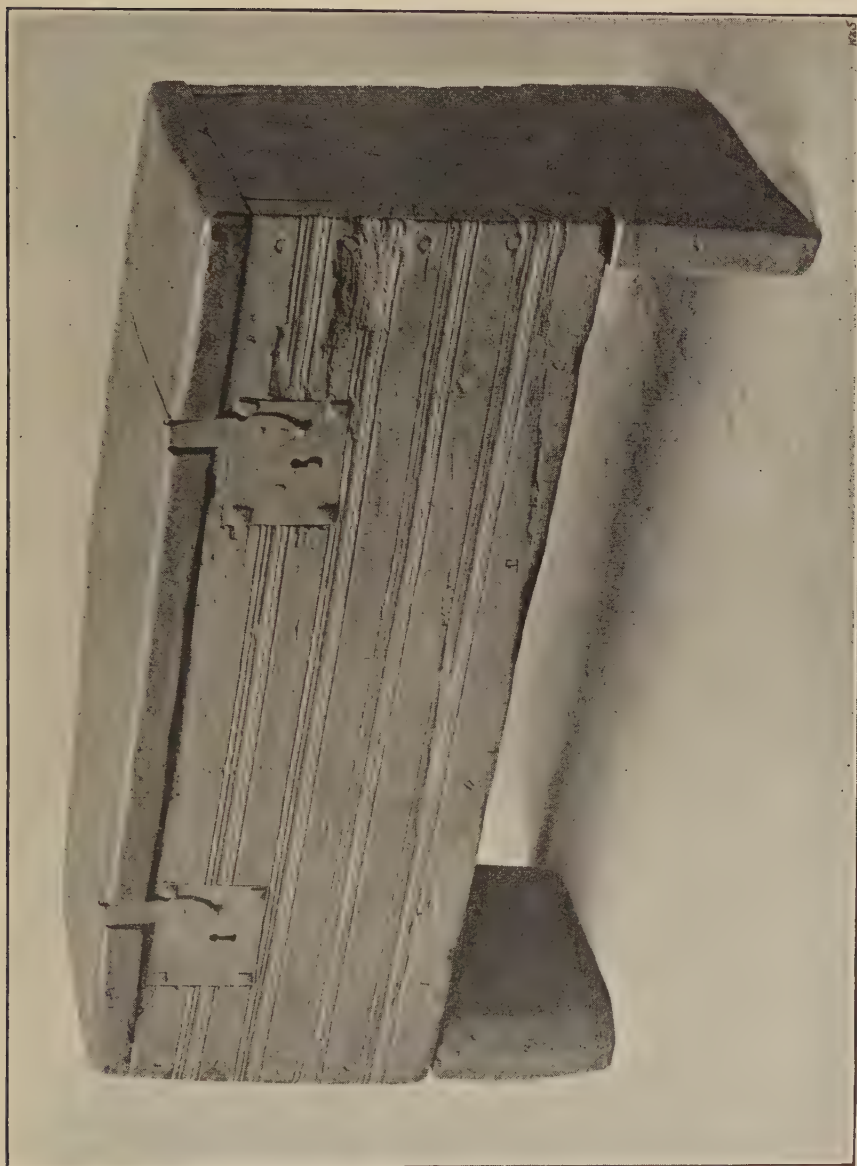
There is Sir Edward Standley stout,
For martial skill clear without make,
Of Lathom House by line came out,
Whose blood will never turn their back.

All Lancashire for the most part
The lusty Standley stout can lead,
A stock of striplings strong of heart,
Brought up from babes with beef and bread.

With fellows fierce and fresh for fight
Which Halton fields did turn in force ;
With lusty lads, liver and light
From Blackburn and Bolton-in-the-Moors.

—*Old Lancashire Ballad.*

A FINE specimen of antique workmanship is the oaken chest, which for several hundred years has concealed the archives of the Blackburn Grammar School. About five feet in length, two feet broad and deep, ponderous with its weight of solid two-inch oak, its locks and hinges groaning with years, it presents, in truth, an appearance well-nigh as venerable as the ancient documents preserved within. Of these, two of the more time-stricken are associated with the School's earliest days. The one,—a document weary of existence, whose faded ink and pre-Elizabethan hand give further proof of its antiquity,—is the original threefold indenture, drawn in the fifth year of King Henry the Eighth, which provided for the maintenance of the First Free Grammar School, subsequently approved and supported by Queen Elizabeth : the other, less aged by about fifty years, is the first minute-book of the corporate body of governors, amongst many notes of interest containing a fair though complicated account, in the form of a legal summary, of the varying fortunes of that primitive institution.



THE SCHOOL CHEST.

Records of which are found dated 1591.

By the deed of 1514, Thomas Stanley, second Earl of Derby, and lord of a neighbouring Manor, presented the Blackburn Parish Church with its third Chantry; and in connection with it stipulated for the maintenance of a Song and Grammar School. The same individual was to discharge the functions of both departments. As Chantry Priest his duties were concerned mainly with the salvation of the noble Earl's soul, his ancestors' and descendants'; as Dominie he is best seen from a glance at the document in question.

The parchment itself is about two feet square, indented on the top in the old legal form, and sealed by means of five slips inserted in the margin and sinuously twisted. The diction may be described as "advanced Chaucer." [Vid. App. A. I.] It is a tripartite indenture made between Thomas, second Earl of Derby (Lord Stanley and Strange) and the Church Reves of the Blackburn Parish Church. The Reves having purchased certain lands, Freehold and Copyhold, in Lancashire and Yorkshire, to these the Earl of Derby added the Copyhold of Ryg-ehey (or Egge-hey), in Burnley, then rented at fourteen shillings, for the sufficient maintenance of a Chantry. In order to avoid legal trouble, all the lands were conveyed to the Earl, and by him formally given to the Church Reves, the Copyhold and Freehold being distinguished in their proper legal form. Within twenty days after signing the deed, the Earl was formally to appoint Sir Edmund Bolton to be first Chantry Priest, with the use of the revenues for life. The right of electing the priests was vested in the Earl and his heirs, provided the appointment was made by them within twenty days after receiving notice of the vacancy. Failing this, the Church Wardens were to select the most fitting person.

The necessary qualifications of the Priest are somewhat ambiguously worded. It is stated that he must be sufficiently learned in Grammar and Plain Song, "if any such can be gotten," to teach a free Grammar School continually, and "maynten" one side of the Choir on all Holy Days. Failing

the two-fold accomplishments, musical ability was to be preferred to the knowledge of Grammar alone. But if no Priest of the requisite musical standard were forthcoming, the Earl was to appoint the one who was, in the Wardens' opinion, most capable of maintaining the choir, and of keeping at the same time either a Song or a Grammar School.

The signatures were attached at Lathom on April 4th, 1514; the three parallel copies being consigned to the keeping of the Earl, the Church Reves, and the Chantry Priest respectively.

The Grammar School thus founded was destined to prove the centre of well-nigh inextricable legal complications. The times were unquiet, and the endowment-property was subject to the confiscation, misappropriation, and restitution of succeeding sovereigns.

It is impossible to say at what date Sir Edmund Bolton vacated his post, but from the "Valor Ecclesiasticus" of Henry VIII. in 1534, it appears that at that time Thomas Burgess was Chantry Priest and Schoolmaster, with a stipend from the original endowments of 66s. 8d.

A further Commission of the same Sovereign, herald of the dissolution of Chantries, thus reported in 1546 :

"THE CHAUNTRIE OF THE ALTAR OF OUR LADY WITHIN THE P'OCH CHURCH OF BLAKEBONE :—Thomas Burges, preist, incumbent ther of the foundacon of the ancestors of the Erle of Derby, to celebrate ther for ther sowles, and to maneteyne the one side of the quere. . . . and also the incumbent hereof to be sufficientlie learned in gramer and plane songe to kepe a ffree skole continuallie in Blakeburne biforesaide. The same is at the altar of our Lady within the said paroch church, and the said incumbent doth celebrate and manetene the quere, and also doth teache gramer and plane songe in the said ffree skole accordinge to the statutes of his ffoundacon."

The rental of the endowment, after deducting 2s. tax, was returned at 108s. 8d.

In 1547, with the accession of Edward VI., the greedy protectors of the infant king under pretence of augmenting the universities, but in reality to swell their private purses, dissolved this Chantry, with 2,373 others. Four years later the young king evidently grew to realise the situation, and as a result of a Commission it was decided, uniformly with other cases, that although, through the negligence of the Crown's officers, the lands forming the endowment of the Earl of Derby had been originally allowed to pass from the Crown estate of which they were copyhold, His Majestie was yet graciously pleased to allow Thomas Burgess, as Chantry Priest, the rental for the rest of his life. Thus the Grammar School was perpetuated; and yet another piece of good fortune befell it, for as the result of a further commission consisting of Sir Walter Mildmay, Robert Kellewaye, and others, to enquire as to the advisability of maintaining certain schools, the Blackburn Grammar School received a favourable report, and an annuity of £4 7s. 4d. from the funds of the Duchy of Lancaster. [This endowment was ratified by Queen Elizabeth in the second year of her reign, and is paid even to this day.]

To further add to the complications, Queen Mary issued a warrant in the fourth year of her reign, 1557, empowering the Grammar School to re-possess itself of the original endowments of the Earl, which Thomas Burgess was even then receiving in his other capacity of pensioned Priest: so that he was now legally entitled to the same on two different claims. These developments seem to have so much troubled the poor Dominie, that he entirely forgot to claim the £4 7s. 4d. which was also his lawful due.

It is essential for exact comprehension of these early troubles of the Grammar School to bear in mind that the same individual was both Priest and Schoolmaster. The Chantry and Free School, founded by the second Earl of Derby in 1514, were endowed with the revenues of certain lands, of the yearly value of 14s. [It subsequently transpired that those lands were really copyhold of the Crown, so that

their appropriation] was in reality irregular : but it was consistent with the policy of the Tudor parliaments to make no protest against the alienation of Crown property, in order that the Sovereign might sooner become dependent upon the Commons.] This Chantry was abolished in 1547, but the rental of the lands, which had increased to £6, was in 1551 demised (or granted as pension for life) to the priest, Thomas Burgess, who was then 58 years of age. Meanwhile the confiscated lands were sold by the Crown's ministers to Sir Edward Warner and others, who also—on the authority of an ancient, though possibly misleading, manuscript—subsequently sub-let them to about 1,000 persons, for building purposes, to such advantage that in 1585 they were valued at about £500 per annum. This annuity Thomas Burgess, as has been stated, received during his life as pensioned priest of the Chantry ; being also the schoolmaster, by the Commission of 1552 he was entitled to a stipend of £4 7s. 4d. This latter amount he never claimed : whether in his wisdom he foresaw trouble if he called attention to the immunity he enjoyed, or whether he was never fully aware of his right—and indeed no wonder, if the documents of the day were anything like those which have hitherto survived !—or whether again he considered the amount trifling in comparison with his then most princely pension, is not determinable ; but the amount of £131 arrearages was allowed to the School by court after a lapse of thirty-four years. Further, by proclamation of 1557, Philip and Mary restored the endowment-lands to the permanent use of the school—possibly to the Chantry conjointly, although this latter point lacks substantiation. Then in the St. Hilary term of 1559-60, being the second year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, came the only possible result of so bewildering a series of diverse decrees, and in the court which twenty years later re-tried almost the identical case under a different name, the law judged the legal position of the school in the contention of Alice Parkinson v. Ralph Greenacres,

This lawsuit seems to have been directly accelerated by the death of Burgess, who had so stoutly weathered the storms of his thirty years of office. Indeed, it is evident that legal complications must needs shortly follow his decease, owing to his having allowed the annuity of £4 7s. 4d. from the Duchy, to which the School was entitled, to lie in abeyance from the outset,—his income as schoolmaster being derived solely from property demised to himself personally.

The court in this case seems to have been concerned mainly with the legality of this demise of the property under the Chantries' Act, seeing that the Grammar School was a co-endowed institution. For the School's individual claims the case briefly was, that the Chantry and Grammar School were conjoint institutions, the Priest and Schoolmaster being one individual, Thomas Burgess. That the Chantry had been dissolved and the Priest superannuated, but the Grammar School had been perpetuated and an independent income granted to its master. Further, that a proclamation of a new Sovereign had restored to the School the original conjoint endowment-lands, previously confiscated and sold. The Queen, however, while upholding the decrees of 1551, and 1552, decided that the main object of the Earl of Derby had been the foundation of a Chantry. [Such indeed was the case, for the Grammar School was ordered to be maintained "if any sufficiently lerned priest can be gotten."] The precise wording of the judgment was that "the said premises were given principally for the maintenance of a chantry priest, to sing and say mass, and other superstitious services in the Chapel of Our Lady, in the Church of Blackburn, which chantry priest should teach a Grammar School and a Song School." The Grammar School was thus unable to recover its original endowments; but the proclamation of Queen Mary was overlooked, and thereby hangs a tale.

The death of Burgess had indeed plunged the School into difficulties. Thus legally reduced, its state was most unsatisfactory,—as seems to have been practically realized.

The era, too, was progressive : the herald of the Golden Age had appeared : in the stir of the times the inhabitants of Blackburn petitioned the "Nation's Bride" for a royal charter for their Grammar School.

There is no documentary record whatever to shew who succeeded Burgess as schoolmaster. The surmise of a writer in *Lancashire Chantries*, based upon a passage in the "Lancashire MSS.," is erroneous and untenable. Whoever he was, his income must have been strangely derived, as the Duchy grant lay still unclaimed, and the other sources had reverted with his predecessor's death. That the office was an actuality, and the School really in existence just previous to the granting of the Charter, transpires from a most fortuitous piece of indirect testimony. It appears that in 1564—glorified year of a glorious age!—a Bishop of Durham, James Pilkington, visited Blackburn, and amongst his notes is the following :—

"Among many other things that be amiss here in your great cures, ye shall understand that in Blackburn there is a fantastical (and some think lunatic) young man, which says he has spoken with one of his neighbours that died four years since or more. Divers times he says he has seen him and talked with him, and took with him the curate, the schoolmaster, and other neighbours, which all affirm that they see him too. These things be so common here, and none of authority will gainsay it, but rather believe and confirm it, that everyone believes it."

This chance paragraph presents the background of a primitive scene. There may be pictured the quaint little village, with its then clear river, its four short streets, its small open market with Abbot Paslew's Cross in the middle, its Church, its School, and its three or four thousand rustic inhabitants, to whom was just dawning knowledge of the existence of an outer world. Upon the scene appear the curate and the pedagogue : the people gaze with awe upon these men of mystery and learning. Meeting, the two might

aptly forecast a few words of him whose guided pen was even then busily at work :—

“ CURATE. Sir, I praise the Lord for you, and so may my parishioners; for their sons are well tutored by you, and their daughters profit very greatly under you.

“ DOMINIE. *Mehercle!* if their sons be ingenuous, they shall want no instruction; if their daughters be capable I will put it to them. But, *vir sapit qui pauca loquitur.*”



CHAPTER IV.—THE ROYAL FOUNDATION.

"Then hear me, gracious sovereign."

—*King Henry V.*

"In Law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,
But, being season'd with a gracious voice,
Obscures the show of evil."

—*The Merchant of Venice.*

IT could hardly be expected that the waves of the great Renaissance of this age would beat directly on the hills of Blackburn, but a little spray, borne on Mantuan or Chian winds, might at least o'ertop them and leave its trace. All Europe was ablaze with the glow of letters. The torch which Erasmus kindled, Melancthon ("Preceptor Germaniæ") sustained, and Luther's spirit fanned. In the hand of Sturm it burned its brightest, and by the agency of his friend Ascham illumined England. Justly, indeed, may it be claimed for John Sturm that he was the first to unite in a practical form the more worthy principles of the Greek and Latin schools. Castle and cloister were at once effectively combined, and their salient principles preserved. Towards the end of the sixteenth century his great school at Strasburg numbered many thousand pupils of all ranks. His friend Ascham being Queen Elizabeth's tutor, it was but natural that the educational institutions which appeared in hundreds with the Reformation, as well as those which had broken with the ancient faith, should look to Sturm for the model of protestant education. Amidst such a literary fervour it is not surprising to find the inhabitants of many English towns petitioning for and obtaining their Grammar Schools, and the governing bodies modelling as far as possible on the principles of Sturm and his disciples, the course to be pursued.

Nor was even Blackburn far behind, for in response to their petition the inhabitants received a Royal Charter for

[illegible]

their Grammar School in 1567. [App. A. II.] By its authority the institution was to be known for the future as the "Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth." The tutorship was to be for ever in the hands of a master, or pedagogue, and an under-master, or usher. The management of revenues, etc., was to be for ever in the hands of fifty governors who, being legally creditable persons, were to constitute a corporation, having power to fill vacancies in their own number. In the governors was vested the appointment of master or usher as occasion required; they were to have a common seal, and might purchase, as permanent legal endowment, any properties not immediately tribute to the crown, whose annual rental did not exceed £30. The corporation were to be liable to no stamp duties provided there were rendered a correct statement of the rental together with any emoluments derived from presentations to the foundation. The formal attestation to the document may be translated "Witness, Ourselves at Gorhambury, the Eighth day of August, in the ninth year of our Reign. By Writ under Privy Seal, and of the Date aforesaid, under authority of Parliament.—Buggyn."

One of the primary objects of this foundation was that Grammar (probably English and Latin) should be taught free therein; indeed, such continued to be the case until the present nineteenth century. But in the course of time, when the age required that more subjects should be added to the curriculum, payment was exacted for tuition in these. [At the present day the School is managed under a re-constructed scheme, prepared by the Charity Commissioners, by which these working details are placed on a basis more consistent with modern requirements.] The full number of fifty governors, also, was by no means kept up, sometimes only as many as eighteen being found on the books. The seal of the corporation, here reproduced, represents the figure of a Master of Arts in robes, with rod and book. Around is a margin of flowers, and the circumscription "*Sigillum. Comune. Liberæ. Scholæ. Gramaticalis. Dnæ. Regina. Elizabeth.*"

This Charter did not make any direct change on the educational side of the School, but at least the institution was accorded a certain legal status, and its management satisfactorily provided for.



SEAL OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The available annals of the Grammar School supply no information as to the names of any masters previous to 1588, in which year casual reference is made to "Mr." Yates, in a minute of *Ye Olde Booke*. The name of his successor, Barnarde Smythe, transpires in a similar way in 1597, in the acknowledgment of a bequest from the "late scollem'r." Other than these there are no names mentioned, and it is in vain that the oldest records of the foundation—many of them highly hieroglyphic in character—have been scrupulously scanned. Indeed, that it is possible to make the assertion at all that there was an immediate predecessor to Yates, is due—as in a former instance—to the merest chance. A side-note to a minute of 1587, of very illegible nature, reads: "This Vs. [five shillings] is delyvde to the late scholemrs wiff, 4 May, 1587, in pte of paynit of ye wage due to her husband." In this

short sentence lies embodied also a hint at the lamentable financial condition which must have been the lot of the institution during this unknown master's term of office. Ever since the death of Burgess, the Free School, being utterly bereft of public resources, had remained in a dormant state, from which even the Royal Charter had failed to arouse it.

The election of Yates about 1582, however, heralded a great revival. He was a man of superior powers and talents, as testified by the well-nigh European reputations achieved in later life by three of his former pupils at Blackburn. He seems to have readily realized the exact position of the institution, and under his leadership the strong arm of the Law was invoked in a last despairing effort to redress the wrongs that the School had suffered under a former generation. A fact auguring well for the success of this essay was the high legal position of the senior governor, Sir Gilbert Gerrarde, of Balderstone, who from being Attorney General at the time of his appointment by the royal charter, had in the interim risen to be Master of the Rolls, and received a Knighthood.

Although the School had previously experienced a reverse on the point, the Governors were yet far from satisfied with the loss of their lands, and claimed a hearing before the Duchy Court. Theirs was no idle claim : morally they had obvious right ; and that their legal position was not without its strong points is evident from the elaborate nature of the enquiry and judgment of the Court. They had to proceed cautiously, too, for their claim was based largely on the unquashed decree of the same court in the "Reign of Terror," and the subsequent warrant of Queen Mary, against the validity of which the reactionary spirit of the Elizabethan epoch would be prejudicially opposed.

The Grammar School pleaded—according to the "Burleigh Papers"—that the disendowment of King Edward was unlawful on two grounds, firstly "fforasmuch as coppeholde landes w'ch were in the handes of others than the Chantrye Preysts are excepted out of the Statute of Chauntries," and

secondly, that the School was as much entitled to the endowments as the Chantry with which it had been conjointly founded. Anticipating the objection that this appeal, if successful, might be made the precedent for alienation of other copyholds confiscated at the same time, they maintained that in this case there was the essential difference that the Grammar School was to be considered. They further urged that Queen Mary had recognised their rights and empowered them to repossess themselves of the lands. They undertook, also, that the "Queenes Ma'stie should have the olde rente of the schole yearlie paide and for the ffyne due to her Ma'stie upon surrenders or upon deathe, yt is but a yere's rente," and should be discharged. They put into Court the foundation-deed of the Earl of Derby, of 1514, and the decree of the same Court of the fourth and fifth years of Philip and Mary.

The trial of this important case occupied a considerable time in the Michaelmas term of 1585. The plaintiffs were the representative governors of the School, and the defendants some of those mentioned as having sub-purchased, as fiefs, before reversion, the confiscated endowment. Information on the subject is comparatively plentiful. Full copies of the decree and of other documents bearing on the case appear in the first minute-book of the foundation, whilst other legal records supply further detail. The defendants, with "nine points of the law" already in their favour, relied mainly on an emphatic demonstration of the fact that the founding of a Grammar School had been a subordinate idea in the founder's mind when he endowed the Chantry. That the lands had been given with "th' intent to maynteyne a chaunterie priest in the Church of Blackburne, w'ch preist should teach a Grammer Schole and a Songe Schole, if such a one could be had, if not then a Songe Schole, and should say Masse and diriges for the soule of the founder of the said Chaunterie, in the said Church. So as the landes were given for the mayntenance of a chauntrie preist, w'ch preist should be

qualified as aforesaide, if such a one could be gotten, and not otherwise given for the mayntenance of a scole." They also shewed that their tenure of the lands was quite regular, and its legality upheld by several decrees of Court.

So far, indeed, they too had right: the fault was not theirs. The wrong had been done by the Crown, and it was for the Crown to make reparation.

The judges who investigated the case (under the surveillance of the Privy Council) were the Chancellor of the Duchy, Sir Gilbert Gerrard, John Clynche, Judge of Assize, William ffletwoode, Serjeant at Law, John Brogreve, Attorney General of the Court, together with the rest of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster. It is interesting to notice in the latter part of the decree the friendly influence of the Master of the Rolls. [App. C., I.]

It was Friday, the 26th of November, 1585, that saw the end of this great lawsuit, which cleared away the legal troubles of the School, by confirming its disendowment under the Chantries Act and by restoring its annuity from the Duchy of Lancaster of £4 7s. 4d. At least, it was upon that day that judgment was delivered, but the decree was not given under seal until the 22nd day of February following. The case was filed as being "*Inter Richard Lyvesay et al' Inhabitant de Blackburne quer' et Rich. Goodshaw et Nichol Halsted defend'*"; and the "bone of contention," as briefly stated in the decree, was a certain estate near Slaidburn, which the plaintiffs alleged to have been given in 1514 for the maintenance of a Grammar School, but which the defendants maintained to be the endowment of a chantry. After touching on the more general history of the foundation, the judges proceeded to point out that the lands had been confiscated by King Edward owing to their connection with a chauntry, and the rents demised to the priest at that time. That the King had sold the lands to Sir Edward Warner, Henry Savile, and James Gardiner, who had power to dispose of them. That the defendants, by payment of large sums of

money, as well to the first owners in purchase, as to the King in Court-fines, had acquired legal possession, inasmuch as the priest Burgesse had lately died, having received the annuities in due form. That the decree made in the same court "in IV. and V. of the late King Phillipe and Quene Marie," produced by the complainants, seemed to be based upon a conjecture that the lands were primarily granted only or chiefly for the use of the said free school; which appeared otherwise in the Indenture of 1514. This decree was accordingly quashed: the defendants were formally and legally reinstated in possession of the lands, and all documents which might prove conducive to a further claim upon them ordered to be surrendered before the "feast of Saint Michell th' Archanngell next." They were, however, of opinion, from the deed of 1514, that the Earl of Derby had purposed somewhat the foundation of a school, and consequently the annuity of £4 7s. 4d., granted by King Edward's Commission, but not previously claimed, was ordered to be sustained; and to meet the arrears, which amounted to £131 15s. 8d., "the sune of Three score Poundes" was "to be paied unto the handes of the said Sir Gilberte Gerrarde, one of the Gov'nors of the said Scole before the feast of the Nativitie of St. John Baptist next coming, to the use of the said scole in Blackburne aforesaid. And that every of the p'chasors and p'prietors of the said landes shall also paie towards the arrerages for every acre of the said copieholde landes to be measured accordinge to the sev'all customes of the said Mannors where the said landes doe lye tenne shillings, or else the some of ffiftie and fyve poundes of lawful mony of Englande . . . to be employed and bestowed by and w'th the good and grave advice of the said Sr Gilbt Gerrarde, Knight, for the better maynten'nce of the said ffree gramer scole to have contynuaunce for ever."

The formal report of the Attorney-General of the Duchy, John Brogreve, was delivered in an interesting manner on the

22nd of February, 1586. After a brief recital of the evidence accepted by the Judges [App. C., I.], he continues :—

“The laste terme, by means of y^r Lo. letters and some other of her Ma’tys most hon’able Privie Counsell, Mr. Chancellor of the Duchie, Sir Gilb’tte Gerrarde, Knighte, John Clynche, one of her Ma’ties Justice of the Assisses within the Countie of Lancaster, where the said landes doe lie, Willm. ffletwoode, Sergyant at Lawe, and the rest of the Counsell of the said Duchie, assembled themselves, to the end the same schole might be in reasonable manner maynteyned, and that her Ma’ties dere brother’s grant should not be called in question, noe such a number of people molested touchinge ther habitacon [upon] copiholde landes by them p’chased as aforesaid ; noe yet her Ma’tie thought in honour bounde to restore so great a some, being levied by reason of the seasure and grauntinge of the said copiholde landes beinge fower thousande poundes or therabouts ; noe yett fermor decrees touchinge the said landes re-examyned ; did order and decree that ther should yerelie be paid towards the mayntenance of the saide schole the yearlie rent of £4 7s. 4d., allowed us afforesaid, and that the sum of £100 or thereabouts should be paid and delivered to the Mr. of the Rowles to be employed in the purchasing of landes to the use of the saide scole for the better mayntenance thereof.”

Thus was confirmed by law the robbery of the Grammar School’s birth-right. It is satisfactory to notice that, at least, the decree was obeyed with regard to the arrears of the Duchy grant ; that the ten-shilling-per-acre fine was fully subscribed, and that eventually the governors were enabled, with generous patronage from the townspeople, to purchase a rent charge of £20, which is still an endowment of the charity.

YE OLDE BOOKE.

It is from the early writings in the first Minute Book of the Institution that the account of the lawsuit of 1585-6, with

the embodied previous history of the foundation, has been gleaned. The same volume records, under date September xxvii, 1594, that there had been put into a black box, together with other school-writings, "an olde booke of orderes, notes, charges and paym'tes in paper towching the said school." It is from some happily-preserved fragments of the manuscript referred to, that Historical sequence is able to be here maintained. These documents,

"Pick'd from the worm-holes of long vanished days,
And from the dust of old oblivion rak'd,"

indeed, present a unique and withal melancholy account of the early financial troubles of the School, and the extremities to [which the governors were reduced in order to provide moneys sufficient to maintain the institution. They shew also the care with which the business of the school funds was transacted, and the ultimate reward of those who strove to plant the foundation on a surer base. [App. B.]

The earliest date therein is the tenth day of September, 1586; and at this, the earliest recorded meeting, there were present thirteen governors, including Edward Welshe, the Vicar of Blackburn, Sir Gilbert Gerrard—who may aptly be called the "father" of the institution—John Radclyffe (Knight), and Thomas Walmysley, whose bold hand is found attached to minutes of the next century. At this date there remained but fourteen of the fifty governors appointed by the royal charter twenty years previously.

The next following records are concerned mainly with matters pecuniary. To meet the salaries of the master (£20) and of the usher (£4) seems to have been a source of trouble. It may, indeed, be taken as a sign of desperation that the governors decided to levy dues not only upon the scholars but even upon themselves; and finally, under the authority of their Letters Patent, to pronounce upon such wayward denizens of Blackburn as failed within a specified time to contribute their mite to the school stock, the awful doom

that "their childre, childre's childre or offspring" should be for ever debarred and excluded from the right of attending the School. This step was the more extraordinary in that a considerable sum had been voluntarily contributed by way of benevolence during the preceding year. It was in April of 1588 that pupils first became liable to a fee—for the larger boys four shillings, for the smaller two shillings a year—in case the funds were to fall short of the requisite £24. The governors decided to subscribe themselves any further sum necessary; but if, on the other hand, the amount so totalled were too great, the poorer scholars should be exempt. They decided, also, that any new pupil should be presented and brought to the school by at least four governors, who should be answerable for the fees. This last decision was somewhat modified in the following September, by the agreement that no boy should be received by Mr. Yates, the schoolmaster, unless he were introduced by two governors, personally or in writing, who should be answerable for his year's wage, even though through poverty, or other cause, he were immediately withdrawn.

"The first day of September, Anno xxxi. regina Elizabeth" is the date of a generous list of donations to the charity amounting in all to £123, of which Justice Walmysley contributed one hundred marks. The last entry of 1589 continues the list, giving a further total of £23 3s. 6d. In addition to these, further large sums were promised conditionally to the purchase of some form of permanent endowment.

Then follows that minute described as "extraordinary." Rarely indeed is a parallel recorded of a small governing body hurling intimidations at the whole community whose support was as necessary as it was desired. On September 12th, 1590, twenty-nine governors assembled in solemn conclave, and after the formal writing of the Letters Patent of the School in illegible Latin, adopted the following resolution:—

“The xiiith Daye of September, 1590, hit was agreed by the governors of the sayd scolle that sutch of the inhabytants of the parishe of blackborne as shall not contrybute towards the purchasing of the p'mses of £20 for the maintenance of the said scolle, before Christmas next shall not at any tyme afterwards have any their childre or childres childre or offespring recd into the sayd scolle or there taught, but to bee for ever excluded and forbarred from the same.”

It seems to have been the custom of old for all the governors present to sign the minutes; and in all probability the secretary himself would be of their number, the position at first being voluntary. From the similarity of handwriting, the signature's leading position, and its disappearance simultaneously with a change of penmanship, it would seem that to the hand of “John Radclyff” must be assigned the honour of having written the earliest extant minutes of the School, until the first months of 1588. In April of that year the writing, which previously shews signs of age or paralysis), gives place to a neat and small hand which is probably that of the Vicar of the parish, Edward Welshe. An entry in December of the same year was made in the Vicar's absence, probably by Thomas Astley, who has the exceptional modesty to place his name last. It would be mere conjecture to decide who is to be thanked for the list of subscriptions and minutes of the annual meeting of 1589; but the Vicar is probably responsible for the extraordinary entry above. A list of 1591, however, seems to emanate from “Yate Bancke,” while the name of one “Robt. Yate, scrivnr,” appears within. Finally, it is recorded, as will be immediately seen, that in September of 1591, the documents and chest were consigned to the care of Oliver Lyvesay, who was thus installed as secretary. These early secretaries of the Grammar School seem to have been determined not to divulge the identity of their cotemporary Ushers; for, though plentiful reference is made to the office, the name of its holder nowhere appears.

There remain to be considered but few remnants of The Olde Booke—the minutes, in fact, of only one meeting—but among them may be found records of culminating interest. Commencing with a formal list of subscriptions, and other business matters, they increase in interest until the climax arrives, embodied in the three minutes reproduced below. Of these the first would seem to point to the School having been used as a slaughter-house—a fact gruesomely suggestive as regards the pupils—the second, that the boys had all become stage-struck (and no wonder, considering the age, and the influence at work!) while the last resolution is an interesting preliminary to the School Statutes of a later date.

An account of moneys amounting to sixteen pounds is followed by a list of the properties entrusted to the new secretary, Oliver Lyvesay. It is next recorded that “all forren Schollers and not of the parrishe,” should be liable to a fee of eight pence a Quarter, or otherwise expelled. Then—

“Itm. it is ordered that from hencefourthe there shalbe noe butcharinge or killinge of flesshe within the same schoole.

“Itm. that noe Englisshe Interludes or playes shalbe from hencefourth playde or used in the same Schoole.

“Itm. that noe extraordinarie playe dayes to be graunted for schollers of the same schoole.”

Nine governors, of whom Th. Walmysley was president, appended their names to these minutes of September 30, 1591—the last recorded in those fragments of the Old Book that have survived.

There yet remain two sheets of the papers just considered, but these are dated 1603 and 1660 respectively, and are probably stray pages from what must next be briefly looked into—

THE EARLIEST EXTANT MINUTE BOOK.

The volume itself is about 15 inches by 12 by 1½, bound in vellum, with leather clasp. It is mentioned in the Old Book as having been purchased in 1591 conjointly with the

school chest and a seal, for £3 2s. 8d. A considerable portion of it is filled with what may be called writings of the foundation, comprising extracts from the Old Book, accounts of great law cases (and "Inquisitions"), statutes, and other early minutes of the governors. All save the minutes have been beautifully entered in a professional hand. The earliest record therein seems to have been made about 1592: the last date on the available fragments of the old book is 1591. It may thus be conjectured that the old book being filled, the new one took up the records in the following year.

The first three pages are devoted to "The names of the Governors of the Possessions, Revenues, and goods of the ffree Gramer Schoole of Quene Elizabethe in Blackeburne in the Countye of Lancaster"—probably about 1590. The next four are filled with minutes dating from 1593 to 1600; then follows the series of School Documents referred to. Seven pages are occupied by "THE NAMES of suche psons as of theire godlye and charitable disposicions bestowed anye benevolence towards the purchasing of a yearlye rent of twentye pounds for the use of the ffree Gramer Schoole of Quene Elizabethe in Blackburne, and the severall somes bestowed by everie suche pson." The majority of those names—which are beautifully "engrossed,"—appear also in the relics of *The Olde Booke*, under the dates at which the benefactions were acknowledged. Two pages following this list are occupied with a copy of the School Statutes, compiled in 1597, and subsequently ratified at the end of the century.

Little attempt at any definite chronological sequence is apparent in the early portion of this minute-book. Rather it would seem that between the earliest entries there were pages left blank, which were subsequently and variously utilised as the book became more filled. Immediately following the School Statutes of 1597 there is a two-page legal entry, of the middle of the next century, referring to the transference of certain lands in Mellor bearing curious names. After this record of 1657, there is an entry of great importance,

being a list of "Evidence concerninge the Schoole of Blackburne," penned in 1591. [App. C., II.] These documents, ten in number, were on the 11th of April, 1591, "put in a longe boxe, which Boxe is now Remaininge in a great cheste in the Church of Blackburn." Then comes a list, dated 1594, of the old documents and MSS. of the School, and a subjoined minute relates that "the evidence and writinge last before mencioned weare putt in a blacke square boxe to the use of the saide Scoole, and kept in the saide Cheste, on September 27, 1594."

Then follow in the Minute Book the full decree, pleas and answers, relative indentures and other legal references bearing on the great suit of 1585-6. [App. C., I.] There appear also other indentures, in Latin and English, of the sixteenth century. Some of them are referred to in the list of "School writings," others are the results of transactions recorded in the Olde Booke. Though historically of no moment, yet are these of an unique interest,

"For they say, if money go before, all ways do lie open."

THE SCHOOL STATUTES.

"Certayne Statutes and Orders to bee kepte in the free grammar schoole of Queene Elizabeth in Blackburne, agreed upon by the Governors of the same schoole December xxith, 1597, and afterwarde consented unto the xvijth of September, 1600."

"After the ringinge and towelinge of a bell, if that can bee haid, soone after six of the clocke in the morninge, the schoole mr and usher with there schollars in as dutifull manner as conveniently may bee, shall dayly come to the schoole and there shall have prayers such as the Governors shall from tyme to tyme apointe.

"After prayers they shall begine to teach att or before seaven of the clocke, and they shall continue until xi. And in the afternoones they shall begine to teach at or beefore one

of the Clocke, Continewinge till after fyve of the Clocke, and shall then also have and use prayers.

“After Mychalmas day the Schoole shalbee taught from munday next after Mychalle Day, until Thursday in the weeke next before St. Thomas Day.

“After Christenmas, upon Monday or Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphane, until Saturday next before the vith Sondag in lente.

“After Easter from the Monday next after Easter weeke untill Thursday next beefore Whitsontide.

“After Whitsontide, the Monday next after Trenitie Sondag until the Saturday next before the Eave of St. Mychalle.

“All Sondays and holidays in the yeare excepted, Shrove Monday and Tuesday, all Thursdayes and Saturdayes after noones.

“Licence to play shall not bee granted to scollars at there dep'tinge from the schole, nor to any other p'sons, than to p'sons of honour worshipp, or to M'rs of Arte or other p'sons of equivolente accounte, and by concente of some of the gov'nors in after nones only and once at the most.

“Petties shall bee taught by the Grammarians only, at the appointmente of the Schoole Mr. or Usher, who shall see that they bee diligently instruckted.

“Upon dayes and tymes excepted from teachinge, the schollars may bee caused by the Schoole Mr and the usher to lerne to write, cipher, cast accounts, singe, or such licke, and allsoe upon holidayes and other convenient tymes.

“Noe Scriviner shall teach writinge schole termes without urgente cause oftener than once in the yeare for the space of one moneth; only in the moneth of September if conveniently it may bee but not at all between Monday next after St. Mychalle Day, and the first Monday in Lent.

“Sith discontinuance is the greatest hinderence to p'seedinge in larnings, parentes and ffrendes are not to discontinew schollars from the Scholes, wch if they doe, the discontinuers are to bee signified to the Gov'nors for reformacon thereof.

“Noe Schollars are to bee admitted to the Schole under the age of ffyve yeares, and such onely as shall be in fittinge soarte, fitt to conceive larninge, etc.

“The Schollars shall diligently apply these bookes, dutifully and decently beehave themselves in all things, in all places, and at all tymes, and to all p'sons, espetially to the Gov'nors, and shall frequente divine service upon Sondagyes and holidayes, for which purpose their parentes and frendes shall apparell them decently, that all excuses of absence may bee removed.

“The formes or sieges may be seaven if the capabilities and proseedinge of the schollars so require.

“The authors in lattin for any Introducktion may bee the gramar, Cato de Moribus, supitiis, verulamis, de moribus in mensa, Esopes fables, etc. In poetrie Terence, Ovide, Vergill, Horrace, Juvenal, and Persius. In histories, Salust, Cecars Commentaries and Tullius Livius' Decades. In Cicerowes workes, his familiar Epistelles, officis, tusculans, questionis, his Retoricke and Oracions ; for Epistelles, Macropidius, for Themes, Aphthonicus ; for the principles of Religion, some chathachisme allowed by the ordinarie, the spalter and such like.

“The authors in greeke may bee Cambdens or Cleniades gramar, Basilles Epistelles, Isocrates Oracions, Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Pindarus, Olenthiacs, Demosthenes oracions, and the Greeke Testament.

“In Hebrue if any bee willinge and fitt thereunto, some Hebrue Gramar or spalter.

“The principles of arithmetick, geometrie, and cosmographe, with some Introducktion into the sphere are p'fittable.

“The exercises may bee Englishe speakinge, lattin variations, duble translacions, disputacions, verses, epistelles, themes, and declamacions in lattin and greeke.

“Once yearly at some convenient tyme, especially in September, the Schollars shall exercise themselves in verses or other exercises generally in praising God who of his fatherly providence hath moved the Governors and benefactors of this

schole to prepare the same, for the bringinge upp of youth and proffit of his church, prainge God that others by their example may be sterred upp to bestowe their goodes upon such licke godly uses."



CHAPTER V.—THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

“ England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself :
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,
The son, compell'd, been butcher to the sire.”

—*King Richard III.*

“ Ere the crown he looks for live in peace,
Ten thousand bloody crowns of mothers' sons
Shall ill-become the flower of England's face ;
Change the complexion of the maid-pale face
To scarlet indignation, and bedew
Her pastures' grass with faithful English blood.”

—*King Richard II.*

THE history of a new century may aptly be introduced by brief memoirs of three of the most famous scholars that have emanated from the Blackburn Grammar School. True, their school-days belong to an earlier date, for all three were pupils of the indefatigable Yates, but it is their life-work of this seventeenth century that has proved the passport to their names with Father Time

HENRY AINSWORTH.

“ Open your ears ; for which of you will stop
The vent of hearing, when loud Rumour speaks ? ”

Considerable obscurity at one time shrouded the early days of Henry Ainsworth, well known in the seventeenth century as an eminent biblical scholar and commentator. There now remains, however, but little ground for supposing otherwise than that he was a scion of the family of Pleasington Old Hall. His father, Lawrence Ainsworth, married Dorothea Grymshaw, of Cleton. Born in 1566, he received his early education at the Blackburn Chanting and Grammar School, and subsequently entered the University of Cambridge. He seems about this time to have adopted a sort of Independent Puritanism, in lieu of the religion of his forefathers—a cause

of much bantering at the hands of his old schoolfellow, James Anderton. He determined on a visit to the Continent to find greater scope for propagating his principles, and is found at Amsterdam in 1592-3, and again in 1596. Here he allied himself closely with the exiled Brownists who had fled from the severity of Queen Elizabeth's bishops. After suffering privations, during which time he became porter to a bookseller, he met with the favour and support of some eminent scholars. In consequence of a disagreement with Francis Johnson, one of his patrons, he quitted Amsterdam for Cork, but subsequently returned. Among his literary works were Annotations on the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Solomon's Song; "Controversial Tracts with Hugh Broughton," "Communion of Saints," "Seasonable Discourse," and a posthumous work "The Orthodox Foundation of Religion." He died very suddenly—a legend of a Jew and a diamond ascribes to him a violent end—probably in 1622. "He left behind him a splendid reputation as a man of profound learning, sound judgment, rare rectitude and candour." His "Annotations" alone—which include a translation from the original Hebrew—combine to form a life-work of stupendous magnitude.

JAMES ANDERTON.

"Now he lives in fame, though not in life."

JAMES ANDERTON, of Lostock, was a schoolfellow at Blackburn with Henry Ainsworth and Robert Bolton, subsequently entering Christ's College, Cambridge. He was a pronounced Roman Catholic, and on account of his eloquence was dubbed, even when a student, "The Golden Mouthed Anderton." He presented the Roman Catholics with the "Triple Cord," and the "Progeny of Catholics," amongst other writings; but it is not difficult to identify him with "John Brerely, priest," author of a remarkable controversial work "The Protestant Apologie for the Roman Church," "A Treatise of the Liturgy of the Mass," "St. Austin's Religion," and "The Reformed



Aspicis effigiem tantum: par nulla figura
BOLTŌNI Genio, qui super astra manet.
Doctior an melior fuit, haud scio. Dicere fas est,
Secula vix referent, quem tulit una dies

Io Payne Fec.
1632.

E.B.

Protestant." He died at Farnworth; but dates are wanting. His attempt to seduce Robert Bolton to the Romish Church is thus narrated by "E. B." :—"This man [Anderton, a very good scholler, but a strong Papist] well knowing the good parts that were in Mr. Bolton, and perceiving that he was in some outward wants, took this advantage, and used many arguments to persuade him to be reconciled to the Church of Rome, telling him he would be furnished with all necessities, and should have gold enough,—Mr. Bolton at that time being poore in minde and purse."

ROBERT BOLTON.

"He lives in fame, that died in virtue's cause."

ROBERT BOLTON, a celebrated puritan divine, in his early days sat at the feet of Mr. Yates in the Blackburn Grammar School, entering Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1592. "His parents, being not of any great means, yet finding in him a great towardliness for learning, destinated him to be a scholler, and struggled with their estate to furnish him with necessities in that kind." He was born on Whitsunday, 1572, so that he was about twenty years of age when he joined the University. His studies in Greek and Latin were unremitting, and after leaving Lincoln for "Brazen-nose," he took his B.A. in December, 1596; was elected with much difficulty a Fellow of Brasenose, and took his M.A. in 1602. "But all this while (or for the most part) though he was very learned, yet he was not good, hee was a very meane scholler in this schoole of Christ, hee drew no religious breath from the soyle he came; hee loved stage-playes, cards and dice, he was a horrible swearer and Sabbath-breaker and boone-companion." In his later years, however, he utterly belied this ill omen of his youth. His reputation as a master of logic, of moral and natural philosophy, and as a classical scholar, became well-nigh European. "Besides his knowledge in Logick and Philosophy, wherein he excelled, he was also well studied in the Metaphysicks and the Mathematicks, and

in all Schoole-Divinitie." On the visit of King James I. to Oxford in 1605, Bolton was chosen to "dispute" before the presence. In 1609 the degree of B.D. was conferred upon him. Subsequently he retired to the rectory at Broughton, in Northamptonshire, where he died renowned, on December 17th, 1631, in his 65th year. Among his many literary efforts were "Sermons," "A Discourse on Happines," "The Four Last Things, Death, Judgment, Hell, and Heaven," "Meditations of the Life to Come," "The Carnall Professor," "The Saints Soule Exalting Humiliation," "A Short and Private Discourse Concerning Usury." His biographer was Edward Bagshawe—"E. B."—an intimate friend.

Under date 1603, a list of the governors then living appears on a sheet which, though forwarded with other fragments of the "Olde Booke," has doubtless escaped from its bindings in the first Minute Book, of which it is really a leaf. There seem only three alive of those who in 1567 were royally selected to form the first corporation of governors. Two of these were marked shortly afterwards as being deceased. The survivor is Thomas Walmysley, of whom more anon. It is the other side of the sheet, however, that presents the more interesting record. At the annual meeting of 1605, the governors, in adequate gratitude for the munificence of one John Astley, of "Little Mirsingham," decided to enter a copy of his will in the minute book; and in the curious legal form of the age, there follows the account of his bequest. After disposing of his soul—the quaint custom was very pretty—he appoints his executor, gives "Robert Kenyon, Clarke, tenn pounds and his beste cloake," and all the rest of his goods, moneys, and estates to the Free Grammar School of Blackburn. The exact sum of money by which the School was enriched does not transpire, but there are two entries accounting for £60, and this amount tallies roughly with the recorded increase in the School stock. Its modern equivalent would be almost a thousand pounds. Though

not of uncommon occurrence at this period of the School's history, such gifts are rarely recorded in later years. On this subject the historian Whittle remarks—can he say true?—"The maladministration of public school property has checked the principle of old-fashioned benevolence. When men have witnessed the unscrupulous manner in which the benefactions of former times have been perverted, they have been deterred through fear of similar results from exercising the ample flow of their generosity." The pages of the old books smile with the records of benefactions, many of them equally generous as that just mentioned. The governors, too, spared no pains to augment the School funds. Any member newly elected to their number was expected to make a present, originally of £2, later £1, and in the early part of the century 10s. Any exception was carefully noted, and the recipient of the distinction was held to be thereby honoured. Mr. Bolton, Vicar of Blackburn, was thus dignified in 1628, as were several faithful officers of the Institution at various times; while on the other hand there is also recorded that in 1628 a Mr. Astley was elected a governor if he would send his xs. to the accountant. The funds were invested by a system of private loan, often among the governors themselves, and at no small rate of interest. The business was very carefully done; bonds were to be renewed every year, securities, etc., found; so strictly indeed, were the affairs conducted, that only once during a whole century is there any record of a "desparett dette," and that, a sum of £7, was not finally despaired of until after ten years' patient waiting.

Amongst other gifts and bequests may be mentioned sixteen books, given by George Leyland in 1605. "*Piscatoris Opera*," in five volumes, was promptly borrowed by the vicar, John Morres; while Mr. Ferdinande Browne also received others in loan. The rest were deposited in the school chest, but all trace of them is now lost. Another curious gift is that of Sir Gylbert Houghton, who, on election to be a governor in 1611, offered a "tree or two" to repair the school.

The School at this time was carried on by the "Pedagogue and Subpedagogue," or Master and Usher. The first appointment of the century to the mastership was that of Edward Browne, after the office had been vacant for about ten years. Singularly enough, the usher who had served faithfully throughout all this time now fell into disfavour, and lost his place. Indeed, the office of usher seems to have been under the ban of a peculiar fatality for some time, for several, on their appointment, only stayed a few months, while those who served a considerable term were either summarily dismissed or "left suddenly." With regard to sudden leaving, it may be mentioned that in October of 1623 the schoolmaster, Collynson, died; and the governors, at a meeting specially convened, being irate at not receiving due notice, deducted the sum of four marks from his salary "for quitting before the year's end." The salaries of the usher and master were increased at various times; the former's being £12 2s. in 1630, and the latter's £25 at the same date.

It was the melancholy duty of the governors to record in 1613 (September 29th) the death of their late president, Sir Thomas Walmysley, of Dunkenhagh. For 45 years, ever since the charter of the school was granted, at which time he was a "gentleman," he had attended every meeting, and his signature during the last five years of his life bears testimony to his increasing years. He was the faithful servant of five different English sovereigns. His name appears signing the minutes of the "Olde Booke," at which time he was a "Sarjeant in Lawe." In 1589 he became a Justice of the Common Pleas, receiving a knighthood at the hand of King James the First in 1603. Dying on November 26th, 1612, at the age of 75, he made a small bequest to the institution in which he had so keenly interested himself. To his memory there was erected a stately monument in the south Chapel of the Parish Church (which had been the Chantry of the Earl of Derby, the founder of the Grammar School). It was a statue in alabaster lying on a sarcophagus beneath a recessed arch,

with an inscribed tablet and heraldic shield. Within thirty years this memorial succumbed to the ravages of the civil war.

“ Tombs have their periods, monuments decay,
And age and rust wear epitaphs away ;
But neither rust, nor age, nor time shall wear
JUDGE WALMSLEY'S name, that lies entombed here,
Who never did, for favour or for awe
Of great men's frowns, quit or forsake the law.”

The length of his service to the Grammar School may be judged from the fact that his son had also been on the Board of Governors since 1597.

For over fifty years there had been little to interrupt the School's career of prosperity, but during the decade commencing with 1642 there commenced a series of events that rendered this period of the School's history unique. The first martial note had sounded through the land : Lancashire had received its call to arms. The king was at variance with his Parliament : the Commons were embittered against their king. Brother against brother, father against son, were to decide the quarrel by an appeal to arms. England was plunged in the carnage and turmoil of internecine strife ; everywhere was war and the devastation of war ; the soldiery held the hour, with many angry broils “frighting the pale-faced villagers.”

Just as Lancashire was prominent in the struggle, so had Blackburn no small share therein. Its townsmen declared for the Parliament, the neighbouring lords and gentry were mostly Royalists. Amongst the governors of the Grammar School themselves were most melancholy factions, many of them being powerful leaders on one side or the other. Picture the horrors of a quarrel which compelled the peaceful directors of an educational institution, one moment working side by side for the school's prosperity, the next to be flying at one another's throats in bitter strife. Imagine, too, their feelings when, in after years, the cruel war ended, the survivors of them again met in a common cause.

Needless to say, the military governors were unable to attend the annual meetings, and it is a great testimony to the energy and fidelity of the secretary that he managed to get a meeting together, however small. The parish registers of this age disclose a gap of ten years, but the Grammar School sequence is preserved. There were no accounts presented for three years—indeed, there were no rents or interests paid—and the chief business was to vote various sums to the master from the school stock.

In December of 1643, Mr. Swindlehurst, "being at wante of money," the school-lands being in arrears of three years, was awarded ten pounds; on other occasions later he received various sums from £5 to £25; in all £80, during four years. The records of these dates in a few simple words paint the living picture more powerfully than any description. The words "distracted tymes," of frequent use, convey most suggestive impressions. When, in 1644, the accounts were presented, the loss to the School incurred by the ravages of the soldiery was found to be enormous. "The intereste of the money lent forth (£74) is behinde and unpaide for two last yeares, by reason of the distractions of the tymes"; and "three yeares Rente, all readie due, for the Schoole lande in Mellor, being now with oute a tenante," "Two yeares of the said iij owinge by Mr. Houghton deade, nothinge worthe. The thirde yeares Rent owinge by Jenkin Gellibrande who was taken, with all his cattell, in tyme of war, his beastes loste, he paied his Ransome to the Armie, Returned home and died, soe I look for noe Rente."

A more pleasing entry is one of 1646, by which it transpires that the whole arrears of the ffarnhill estate were paid up.

" Yet is thy root sincere, sound as the rock,
A quarry of stout spurs and knotted fangs,
Which crooked into a thousand whimsies, clasp
The stubborn soil, and hold thee still erect."

With the close of the Civil War the history of the Grammar School assumes a somewhat monotonous aspect for many

years, during which were felt severely the after-effects of a blow which had well-nigh shattered the ancient foundation. Recovery was sure, but very slow, and the Governors may often have despaired of the issue of their protracted struggle with poverty. The money, however, had been well invested—the lands were good, the personal securities sound ; so that, though provision for current expenses, and more particularly for repairs, was many years a matter of anxiety, yet such was the improved condition of the School, through diligence and studied economy, a half-century later, that an act of generosity, equally as unexpected as it was munificent, at once showed it the way from troubles to the prosperity that had formerly been its lot. But the blow, though warded off in its intensity, had been severe ; and the century produces (according to available records) no scholar of any note whatever.

The necessary repairs of the school-house at once proceeded. What there was each year in the way of superfluous funds was devoted to maintaining the habitability of the building. Indeed the Governors had to resort to the extremity of making the scholars contribute towards mending the broken windows ; this precedent appears recorded in 1653, the sum of xixs. xd. “more than what the scholars paid” being disbursed for new glass. From that date similar entries are not infrequent. There is a loose sheet, of 1660, which gives a very interesting account of repairs then executed : twopence or threepence a day seem to have been the standard wage of labourers employed in plastering, etc, although as much as elevenpence seems to have been paid immediately after the war. The governors’ meeting at which this account presumably was presented, was in one respect a “record”—twenty-four of the members being present. Under date 1664, there appears an item which is in several ways suggestive. John Abbot had been appointed overseer of the work of repairs, and he, together with three other governors, disbursed on three different occasions a total of two shillings, “when

they viewed the decaye of the schoole, and agreed with the workmen for repaire of the same, and viewinge the worke when it was done." No doubt it would be very distressing for them to see the building so dilapidated: to estimate the amount of stimulant they required is a mere matter of arithmetic.

There was effected in 1657 the transference of certain lands in Mellor bearing curious names, as "The Marles, The Nopacres, The Roughe fieldes, The Rye Crofte, The Roche Crofte, The Crofte before the Dore, The Sedge holle, The Sugar Meadowe," comprising about twenty-nine acres (probably about fifty acres present measure). This transaction is recorded in a document headed:—"THIS INDENTURE MADE the first day of September in the yeare of our Lord god One Thousand Six Hundred fiftie and seven, Betweene Sir John Talbott of Salisburie in the Countie of Lancastr. knight and Richard Haworth of Manchester in the Countie of Lancastr. on the one ptie, And the Governos of the possessiones Revenews and goodes of the ffree Gramer Schole of Quene Elizabeth in Blackburne in the countie of Lancaster on thother ptie."

In 1683, the governors decided to meet only once a year for the future—upon St. Thomas's Day—except upon some urgent occasion, when the vicar of the parish was to announce the same in church on the previous Sunday.

It was in the same year that Sir Edmund Ashton was elected a governor, and in the following year, 1684, his colleagues were electrified at receiving the sum of £5—a present which they accepted with alacrity, and gratefully acknowledged. But in the following year the surprise was repeated, and afterwards for eight years the amount was doubled—£5 being thus sent twice, and £10 eight times, a total sum of £90. The gratitude of the governors, as the presents were each year repeated, knew no bounds; and indeed the gift was magnificent. Money in those days was not so plentiful by manyfold, nor had it the currency of

modern times. In 1687, the governors considered the further sum of £10 to be "A signall demonstracion of his kindness and great bounty for the augmentacion of the Schoole Stock." In the following year a like gift was held to be "a great example to others, a good incouragement to learninge, and a perpetuall testimony of his generous dispos'tion to pious and charitable uses." In 1689, "Lett it bee remembered to the continuall renown of Sir Edmund Assheton of Whalley, that as a further demonstracion of his unparalleled kindness and charity to this school, hee hath given as a further addicion to the great incourag't of Larninge and the increase of the Schoole Stock, the sum of Tenne poundes, for which the thanks of this Assembly and all succeedinge Governors and Schoolmasters is to bee acknowledged and had in perpetuall remembrance." In 1694, when the gifts ceased, the sum of them exceeded "all particular gifts given by any pson or psons whatsoever towards the foundation of this schoole."

In 1672 there disappears from amidst the usual signatures that of John Talbot, after appearing for about forty-four years. Thomas Walmysley (son) was a governor also forty-four years, and attended with a regularity only exceeded by his father. Another long term of faithful service was that of John Whalley, who died in 1713, having been accountant for forty-two years.



CHAPTER VI.—THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

“One man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first the infant ;
And then the whining school-boy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school.”—*As You Like It*.

“I have heard,
The cock, that is the trumpet of the morn
Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat
Awake the god of day.”—*Hamlet*.

THE brush of Cattermole has strikingly pictured old Blackburn, of the early eighteenth century, on the canvas hung in the East Gallery of the local Museum. The quaint costumes, the antique buildings, the old tavern, the stocks, and other remembrancers of the past, savour little of “The Cross” of to-day, with its bank, its hotel, and its electric lights. The subject of the painting, a historical incident of 1715, presents the towns-people, rudely armed, making hasty preparation of martial import under the leadership of Captain Aynesworth, of Pleasington ; while from the steps of the “Old Bull” the Vicar, John Holmes, addresses an assembled crowd. Captain Aynesworth was one of the governors of the Blackburn Grammar School : John Holmes was their chairman.

The steeple of the Parish Church now occupies the site of the old Grammar School—obscured in the painting by the buildings in the background. There seems to be no picture of this ancient feature in existence ; and the flight of time is fast leaving beyond the recollection of the town’s oldest inhabitants. But the traditions of their fathers, and the references—sparse though they be—in the Annals, enable at least a vague image of the institution to be created.

The building itself must have been somewhat insignificant. It had been slated from an early date, and a plentiful supply of moss, regularly replenished, upon the walls and roof, served at once to protect it against wind and rain, and to add to its picturesque appearance. The interior was plastered, and illuminated by means of a number of small windows. The desks and forms were, like their environments, decayed with years.

Two large rooms, the one above the other, were probably all the School could boast in the way of accommodation; and of these only that on the ground floor was in reality used for the ordinary course of instruction. The usher monopolised one end thereof, the master the other. After 1755, all boys who showed themselves able to read the Testament were entitled to be received by the former; but the number of small boys became so great that on the representation of the master, in 1770, the governors imposed an entrance fee of five shillings on all new-comers. English subjects were the province of the usher; all boys who read classics were taught by the master. Toward the end of the century, however—at which time some very able men accepted the position of usher, probably with a view to advancement—there seems to have occurred some irregularity on the point, for it was formally ordered in 1791 that all boys learning Latin were to be pupils of the Head Master.

The upper chamber, called the Governors' Room, was long occupied by writing teachers, who paid a certain sum yearly for its use. For over two centuries their classes were not in formal connection with the Grammar School; but association of position and sympathy of object at length brought it to pass that the writing school was taken over by the governors and annexed to the sister institution. As a preliminary step it was ordered, in 1731, that "Noe girls should be taught in the chamber over the School." There can only have been one design in this, for girls were admitted to the Grammar School until quite a comparatively recent date. The exclusion

of girls meant, rather, less profits "upstairs," and hence easier purchase for the governors. The earliest record of any appointment of a writing master in addition to the two customary teachers was in 1787, which year may be taken as the date of annexation. There is not wanting verbal testimony to assure that such was the arrangement of the School until its removal to a new building in 1819.

"The school's lone porch, with reverend mosses gray,
Just tells the pensive pilgrim where it lay.
Mute is the bell that rung at peep of dawn
Quickening my truant-feet across the lawn."

An old custom in connection with the School was the payment of "Cock-pennys," a sum of optional amount due from the boys to their teacher. The origin of this doubtful largess has not survived with any degree of authenticity, but possibly it may be traced to the minute already published of the *Olde Booke*, dated 1588, wherein it was decided that the bigger boys should contribute four, and the smaller two, shillings annually towards the combined salaries of the master and usher (£24), the governors supplying any deficiency. This seems to have been the method of procedure until the year 1743, when the boys were directed to give their "cock-pennys" to the master who taught them; but later in the century the number of small boys, who were the usher's pupils, becoming preponderant, the sum so contributed, together with all other perquisites, was in 1783 ordered to be equally divided between the two teachers.

"Cock-pennys" were handed in on Shrove Tuesday, and possibly the name of the gratuity may have some connection with a cock-fight which was wont to take place on that day. The afternoon was granted as a holiday, a relaxation which, thus time-honoured, is still allowed annually to the boys. It seems that in its origin this gratuity was contributed to purchase cocks for a sport more cruel than "fighting." The unfortunate subject of the diversion was buried up to its neck, and its head then used as a target. This sport was

condemned by Dean Colet in the statutes of St. Paul's School. [Temp. Henry VIII.]

It is within the recollection of many old townsmen how annually they carefully carried to school their "pence," wrapped in paper; but woe betide the unhappy boy whose pence were copper! They had to find silver "Cock-pennys" in the days of Thomas Atkinson; and to ensure a sound hide on return home, gold was to be preferred.

In 1743 newly-elected governors were directed to contribute the sum of one guinea, otherwise their election to be null and void. In the following year there is recorded a fact worthy of mention, that many of the neighbouring townships made gifts towards repairing the Free School of Blackburn. The list is as follows:—Blackburn, £2 10s. 5d.; Over Darwen, £1 15s.; Lower Darwen, £1 5s. 10d.; Tockholes, 18s. 1½d.; Little Harwood, 17s. 6d.; Osbaldeston, 11s. 8d.; Wilpshire with Dinkley, £1; Salesbury, 15s.; Pleasington, £1 7s. 6d.; Witton, 16s. 3d. In the following year, 1745: Mellor with Eccleshill, £1 10s.; part of Rishton, 9s. 1d. In 1746: Livesey, £1 6s. 10½d.; Balderstone, 15s.

In 1747 it was ordered that a version of the Charter should be read annually and publicly in the School, every St. Thomas's Day. Just previously there had been printed for the governors by Joseph Harrop, of Manchester,

"AN EXTRACT FROM THE CHARTER
FOR A
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
IN
BLACKBURN."

A copy of this interesting relic yet survives, having been in the Ratcliffe family since 1743. The paper is yellow with age, and almost breaks to the touch; but the typographic workmanship is very superior. It contains a translation of nearly the whole of the original Charter of 1567 in large type on a sheet not quite two feet square.

There seem to have happened exceptionally stirring events

within the institution in 1763 ; for the master and usher (Mr. Guest and Mr. Parker) were compelled to report to the governors that certain scholars had openly insulted them in defiance of all power and authority. As a result, it was ordered that every scholar who had so offended should be for ever expelled from the school, after due correction.

In 1769, the mastership becoming vacant, the following advertisement appeared in the columns of the famous Harrop's "Manchester Mercury" for July 25th, 1769 :—

"Blackburn, July 11, 1769.—This is to give Notice, that the Trustees of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Blackburn, in the county of Lancaster, will meet at the said School, on Monday, the 28th day of August, 1769, by 10 of the clock in the Forenoon, to elect a Head Master (which place is now vacant by the death of the late Mr. Guest), and amounts to Thirty-one Pounds and Twelve Shillings a year certain, besides Perquisites (which upon diligence and good behaviour are very considerable) when and where any person promptly recommended and duly qualified may offer himself a candidate.—N.B. The most worthy will be chosen." The choice fell upon Mr. John Wilson, of Tockholes.

Two of the masters of this century are worthy of note.

JOHN ODDIE, who was appointed in 1670 and died in 1703, was of a Grindleton family, and seems to have interested himself in antiquarian lore. In "The Natural History of Lancashire and Cheshire, by Charles Leigh, Doctor of Physick," appears an interesting letter on the possibility of the river at Ribchester ever having been tidal, from the "Ingenious and Learned Mr. Oddy, school-master at Blackburn" :—

"When we were at Ribchester together, and had carefully viewed the Place, you may remember I gave you my Opinion, and Reasons, why the Ribble had never been Navigable so high, and that doubt raised about the Place called Anchor Hill may easily be solved; that that Bank was a Rampire of a fortress is very visible, under which there is yet a broad and deep Foss leading towards the River, serving for a double use, viz.: as a Trench to fortifie the Place and a Canal (like that up to

Holborn bridge, London) for Boats for the Garrison upon all Occasions to pass over and repass the river, which is not fordable thereabouts but in dry weather, and we may reasonably suppose there was a great number of Boats of all sorts belonging to so large a Fort and City, the Anchor Hill, so called, being as it were a little Dock or Hithe for the Building or Repairing them, and that the Anchors, Rings, and Nails there found were only for their use, and not for ships, they being far too little either for Ships of Burden or War."

REV. THOMAS HUNTER (1737-1750), was of a Cumberland family, born about 1710. He was educated at Queen's College, Oxford, and is spoken of by a former pupil (Dr. Harwood) as having "the best school at Blackburn of any gentleman in the County." He resigned his mastership on appointment to be Vicar of Garstang, whence in 1755 he was preferred to the Vicarage of Weaverham (Cheshire), where he remained until his death in his 72nd year. Author of "Observations on Tacitus," 1752; "Funeral Sermon on Dr. Stratford," 1754; "Character of Bolingbroke," 1770 (this work procured him an honorary M.A.); "Moral Discourses on Providence," 2 v., 1774; "Reflections on the Letters of Lord Chesterfield," 1776; "Letter to a Priest on Image Worship," etc. He is said to have been afflicted with blindness in his later years, when several of these works were composed.

Among the more noteworthy scholars of the eighteenth century there may be mentioned two. [Owing to the fact that until quite recently a register was not kept, it is often impossible to identify prominent local men as being sometime Grammar School pupils. There was, however, some record kept by Mr. Atkinson, during his mastership from 1819 to 1845; but it has proved impossible to recover the book.]

EDWARD HARWOOD, D.D., a learned Protestant dissenter, was born at Over Darwen, in 1729, and received the first rudiments of his education there. Afterwards he became a pupil at the Blackburn Grammar School, and concluded his education at the academy of Mr. Coward. In 1750 he bought a boarding school at Peckham, in Surrey, and at the same time applied himself incessantly to the study of the Greek

and Roman classics. Removing to Congleton, Cheshire, in 1754, he became Master of the Grammar School there ; but subsequently accepted a "call" to Bristol. Being slandered, he left in 1768 for Edinburgh, was elected a Doctor of Divinity, and in 1772 went to London. His literary works from 1761 to 1778 were of great fame. After suffering fourteen years from palsy, he died in 1794.

SIR WILLIAM FEILDEN, Baronet, of Feniscowles, was the third son of Joseph Feilden, of Witton, and was born March 13th, 1772. He was educated for the Church, and received part of his early education at the Blackburn Grammar School, under the Rev. John Wilson. Subsequently he was taught at Warrington by Dr. Owen, and afterwards at Clitheroe, by the celebrated Rev. Thomas Wilson, B.D. After a University course at Brasenose College, Oxford, he established a prosperous cotton business, and obtained Parliamentary honours. In 1835 he was elected a Liberal member for Blackburn, but after sitting two years, he was again returned, this time as a Conservative. Again in 1841 he was returned, together with Mr. John Hornby, and on the retirement from office of Sir Robert Peel, in 1847, was one of only three members honoured with a baronetcy, for his long service of fourteen years. He died May 17th, 1850, aged 78.



CHAPTER VII.—THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

“To school was sent
The timid Stephen, weeping as he went :
There the rude lads compell'd the child to fight,
And sent him bleeding to his home at night ;
At this the grandam more indulgent grew,
And bade her darling shun the beastly crew,
Whom Satan ruled, and who were sure to lie
Howling in torments, when they came to die !
This was such comfort, that in high disdain
He told their fate, and felt their blows again.”—*Crabbe*.

THE history of the Blackburn Grammar School during this fourth century of its existence reveals diversities of fortune such as no other age has witnessed. It covers wholly that great epoch in the life of the town itself during which there arose within it that industrial animation which has brought it so conspicuously to the fore, and caused its long dormant population to augment by leaps and bounds to the extent of over a hundred thousand souls. It deals also with the modern era during which a Renaissance of the Sciences has induced a corresponding general Progress, in which the Art of Teaching has not failed to benefit.

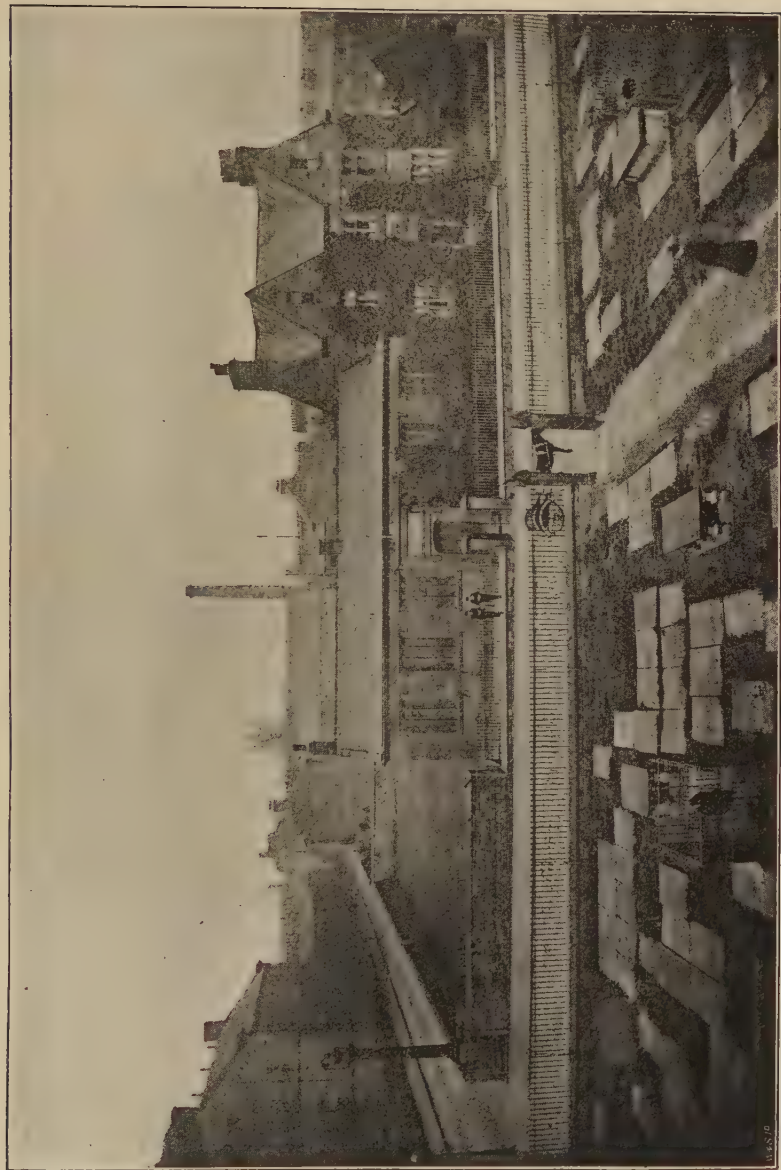
Of the first twenty years of the nineteenth century little can be said. The old school was bought out by the authorities of the Parish Church in 1819—the site being required for the new church fabric—and in the following year, the School, under Mr. Atkinson, removed to temporary quarters. A room was rented for £18 yearly, and therein the handful of pupils was taught, pending the completion of the School now extant in Freckleton Street. A great deal seems to have been thought of this “new building,” which was to have been first used about 1825. The master’s house, a considerably larger building, was not completed till some years later. The

cost of the land—4,610 square yards—was £141 2s. 5d., and of the building about £700. £850 was the compensation given by the trustees of the Parish Church. The School is about 22 yards long by 12 broad. More than half the ground floor was monopolised by the desks, leaving, in later years, somewhat less than a square yard of standing ground for each boy.

It is worthy of record that James Radcliffe, who died in May, 1828, had retained his post of writing master and accountant thirty-nine years. He was also clerk of the Parish Church, and was one of the leading English masters of Caligraphy. He published in 1794, under the title of "The British Youth's Instructor in Penmanship," some beautiful specimens of his art. The frontispiece to the volume is an interesting design of "The Genius of Literature presenting the Author's Work to Britannia." There is included an exhaustive History of the Art of Writing.

The lands mentioned in the annals as being sold in 1801, comprised the tenement known as Whitehalgh's—purchased in 1625—except a small part thereof, which had been profitably exchanged for other land in the locality in 1793. An estate of about 58 acres, called "Clayton's" in Dilworth, was purchased in 1812, and leased to Thomas Clayton at a rent of £110. In 1816, being re-let, it yielded £80; in 1823, after another change, £60; while a new tenant in 1826 paid £80 a year. The Pianot Nest tenement, in Mellor, purchased in 1749, yielded in 1825 a rent of £16 yearly. The rent charge of £20 on the Farnhill estate, and the sum of £4 7s. 4d. (less 9s. 10d. fees), contributed to make up the total endowment in 1825 to £119 7s. 6d. per annum.

Considerable reputation as a classical scholar was enjoyed by the new master of the Grammar School, to whose care the education of the twenty or thirty pupils was entrusted in December of 1819. His manners were stern, his methods rigorous; but therein he was consistent with the conceits of the age. Despite the disadvantage of being penned several



THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL (1820-1883).

years in temporary quarters, success attended him from the first ; so that the School grew until the next decade—a date still within the memory of a few “old boys”—found him with about eighty pupils (including a few girls) and several assistant masters.

In the earliest days of one “old boy” the under-masters whose names he can now recall, were Mr. Snape, the Rev. William Ellison, at this time a teacher, subsequently chaplain to a nobleman, and of whom more anon ; Mr. Hargreaves, afterwards head of Barnsley, and Mr. Percy Heavyside. There were also at the School as pupils about half-a-dozen girls, who sat near the fire-place, in what was ever known as the “top end” (from its being raised two steps above the level of the “bottom end”).

Another genial “old boy,” whose school-days are of slightly later date, bears striking testimony to the thoroughness with which Mr. Atkinson “grounded” his pupils in their classical rudiments ; being able to repeat from memory all the syntax of the then popular Valpy’s Grammar, and many lines of the Odes of Horace—and this after a lapse of fifty years, during which he has not seen the book. He considers that Mr. Atkinson, whose Latin was more familiar than his Greek, was a capital teacher of boys up to fourteen years of age ; this limit to his abilities being decided by the absence of Latin verse and regular translation of classical authors from his curriculum.

One of his earliest recollections is of a procession in which the Grammar School boys walked, playing handbells, on the occasion of the Queen’s coronation. The boys, who occupied a place of honour in this memorable celebration, had been taught their various changes by Mr. Ellison, their classical master, and their performance was so exceptionally meritorious as to wring special praises from the local and Manchester press.

The playing of the hand-bells was long a favourite pastime of the Grammar School boys, and their performances were of

infinite credit. At first they were content with a peal of twelve, which they purchased by a general subscription amongst themselves. Later a large box of thirty-seven was eventually secured, the expense being largely met by playing at various residents' homes. The small peal disappeared, but the large box still remains, though most of the bells are in a state of collapse. So late as 1870 or 1880, however, they were regularly used and enjoyed by the pupils, under the guidance of the late Mr. George Ainsworth.

Another old-time feature was the half-yearly public examination, to which all those interested in the School, as well as the scholars' cousins and aunts, were openly invited. The boys of Mr. Atkinson's day, strange to say, rejoiced at the advent of these great occasions. The reason is not far to seek. For one thing, the cane received a temporary rest; for another, a Mr. Radcliffe used to bring each boy an Eccles-cake. The examiners for several years were the Rev. John McGregor, B.A., and the Rev. W. Hartley. In 1841 (on St. Thomas's Day) prizes were awarded thus:—Junior history, Henry Hall; senior history, William Tattersall and Thomas Dugdale; senior geography, Charles Illingworth; first, or lowest, class, William Hart; second, Richard Haworth Hart; third, William Thwaites; fourth, John Martland (two prizes); fifth class and second Greek class, Master Boardman, Edward Alston, and Richard Blackburn. Two years later the same examiners reported that the various branches of study comprised the classics, mathematics, geography, history (sacred and profane), arithmetic, composition, etc. William Lewis secured two prizes; Richard Haworth Hart three, including the Latin prize for Phœdrus, Nepos, Cæsar, and Ovid; Edward Morley gained the head Latin prize (Horace). The governors and friends celebrated the flourishing condition of the institution by a dinner at a hotel in King Street. The under-masters of this day were John Garstang (Mathematics), Rev. Wm. Ellison (Classics), and Mr. Baynon (General).

Unfortunately for the institution, the head-master's early

principle of rigorous discipline—of risky severity from the outset—degenerated direfully with his persistence in his uncongenial duties. Corporal punishment, ruthlessly administered, was his unvarying reproof—even his delight. His mind, too, became abstracted by considerations of a financial nature. The failure of some of his speculations could not improve matters, or tend to revive the drooping intellectual spirit of the School. The public, without attempting to remedy the evil, signalled their perception of it in the most emphatic way. The number of his pupils lessened, and still grew less.

Despite the failings of his later years, Mr. Atkinson, during his mastership, restored the School to a condition of prosperity that it had not enjoyed for very many years. Not only was he a man of unquestionable, although misapplied, ability, but for a time he was also one of fortune's favourites. Rarely, during the decade commencing with 1830, had he fewer than eighty pupils, the period about the date of Queen Victoria's accession being perhaps the most successful. A sure token of the success that attended his earlier efforts, and the high regard entertained for him by his pupils at that time, may be found in a presentation made in January of 1837 by a number of old boys. The gift was a very elegantly-mounted silver box, inlaid with gold, bearing the inscription: "Presented to Mr. Thomas Atkinson, head master of the Free Grammar School, Blackburn, from a few of his grateful pupils, as a small token of affectionate esteem for his unwearied attention to their advancement in learning. *Quis gremio docti præceptoris—affert, quantum grammaticus meruit labor.*" But from that time the frequent and oft-repeated tales of the impatient cruelty that had manifested itself in him began to appeal to those in authority. Boys were withdrawn, others were not sent; while those few who entered refused to learn Latin, by which stratagem they escaped, in great measure, his jurisdiction. Slowly the numbers dwindled, until at the time of his resignation there would be scarcely thirty boys under his care. Nor did this retrogression stay here, for the

prejudices of his successor, Mr. Bennett, proved just as fatal to the School's interests.

His one constant cause of disagreement with the governors was the absence of classical translation from the curriculum of the School—but it was in vain they expostulated.

There was little, however, to prevent Mr. Atkinson from retaining his mastership many years ; but his thoughts had long been in other channels, and in 1845 he resigned, to assume duties more congenial to his nature, and wherein lay his true vocation, the managership of the Savings Bank, which he had helped to found. Later (so rumour has it) he made efforts to recover his scholastic chieftainship, but was unsuccessful. The tide of popular feeling had set against him and the methods he used. A younger and more reflective generation, mindful of youthful experiences, was slowly coming to realise that knowledge and pain were not inseparable, and that it might be possible for ideas to be formed as well as instilled.

1845-1855. —It has been mentioned that during Mr. Atkinson's very latest years, and Mr. Bennett's earliest, the fortunes of the School were in a continual decline. The former had lost his popularity, and the latter never won any, so that after about five years of his mastership the retrogression could proceed no further—the School was empty. The governors engaged Mr. Bennett unconditionally ; he refused the demand of the public for commercial education, and being left in the end with only his two sons as pupils, he retired to his house, and closed the School for nearly five years. His position was unique. He drew his salary, inhabited the master's quarters, and defied the helpless governors. In 1849 a committee appointed to consider the difficulty consisting of John William Whitaker, D.D., chairman, Thomas Thwaites, John Cort, Henry Haworth, Richard Martland, George Ratcliffe, and Montague Joseph Feilden, decided that an under-master should be appointed at a salary of £10 per annum, who should hold in suspense all claims due to the Rev. T. B.

Bennett. This was on July 23rd, but it is doubtful whether the step was taken. On October 22nd of the same year the following letter appeared in the columns of the "Preston Guardian":—

"SIR,—Though residing many miles from the town of Blackburn, I have perused with much interest and deep regret the reports of the deplorable state in which that once flourishing institution, the Blackburn Grammar School, has fallen, since the appointment of the present talented headmaster, the Rev. T. B. Bennett. I remember some time since after two or three years of excitement and disgust at the rev. gentleman's conduct, after the number of pupils had dwindled down from about one hundred, until not one was left, with the exception of his own two worthy little sons, the governors then aroused themselves a little, and after much apparent apathy appointed a committee to adopt means to get quit of this rev. sinecurist's services, who returned nothing for his liberal emoluments but insolence and injury to the rising generation. The committee, after many months' deliberations, always with closed doors and reporters excluded, at length came to the resolution to stop the supplies until compelled by court of law, under the peculiar circumstances of the case. When this resolution was made public, many honourable men came forward and guaranteed some fifty, some twenty, and some ten pounds, etc., towards defending any proceedings that might be taken against the secretary or governors. But the committee returned the trust reposed in them into the hands of their fellow governors without carrying this resolution into effect, or making the least change in the arrangements of the school. How long the inhabitants of Blackburn will permit this disgraceful state of things in their free Grammar School; how long they will permit the funds of that once noble institution to be swept into the pockets of their 'head-master,' for doing nothing but setting the governors and inhabitants at defiance—I say how long they will permit it, I cannot tell; but I think, if proper spirit and energy were displayed by everyone—they have justice and reason on their side—it would not be difficult to remove this Rev. T. B. Bennett from the situation which he has shewn himself so unworthy of."

Although such was the feeling of the public so early as 1849, it was not until 1855 that the obstinate classic, Mr. Bennett, was removed. In the same year there was erected, chiefly through private influence, a monument of Ionic design to the memory of his predecessor.

Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, M.A., formerly of Preston Grammar School, was appointed to the vacant mastership on November 23rd.

1855-1896.—Five years the dingy structure once dignified

by the name of a Grammar School had been tenantless, save for scampering mice and bats weirdly flitting about in the semi-darkness. It could not have presented a hopeful prospect when on November 23rd, 1855, Mr. Ainsworth accepted its mastership, with the incumbent task of raising the institution from absolute nonentity to its pristine and long-maintained condition of prosperity.

The varying fortunes of the School at this age furnish a striking representation in miniature of the great educational revolution long in progress without. Slowly, but very surely, the precepts of Wolfgang Ratke, promulgated at the time of the Renaissance, were gaining foothold through the failure of others. The consummation so devoutly wished and sought by Sturm was well nigh effected: philosophy and philanthropy were reconciled: the two great schools which in remote ages swayed mankind had united their happier elements; languishing Athens revived, and degenerate Rome was purged. True, the blend was not perfect, nor can be; but at least love between teacher and taught began to supplant the hatred formerly rampant. The rod was still a popular inducement to work, but brutality was no longer tolerated. Henceforth studies were to be made a pleasure rather than a pain. And as this quiet tide of popular feeling slowly rolled westward, and swept down the obstructions, both those planted by nature and those founded on prejudice, surrounding the little world of Blackburn, the Grammar School felt the intensity of its power. Thomas Atkinson with his rod aroused the glowing coals of the foundation, and raised a blaze which, for ten years or more, burned brightly: but still he beat with his rod while the age no longer supplied fuel, so that the fire, with repeated blows, burned low; and his successor, struggling against yet another wave, was powerless to keep alive the dying embers. Then came Mr. Ainsworth to champion the New School. Mindful of his predecessors' pitfall, he met the spirit of the times by dividing the curriculum into two branches, classical and commercial, each involving

rudiments of the other. Dignity and forbearance, kindliness, firmness, and tact, did the rest; and within three or four years the institution attained a position of prosperity higher than had ever fallen to its lot.

Not the least sure token of the high esteem which the pupils of this age entertained for their master is the promptitude with which all those applied to have furnished some information of their school days. It is impossible to utilise more than a small portion of the many narratives forwarded. There is in all a common feature, and this unanimity is with regard to the kindly disposition that controlled their early youth. Nor is this a change of opinion brought about by time, for on the 20th of June, 1860, or not five years from the date of the School's rejuvenescence, there was presented to the head-master a beautiful and costly timepiece, inscribed: "*Dono dederunt—Thomæ Ainsworth, M.A.—Scholæ Grammaticæ, Blackburn. — Presidi. — Ejus Discipuli. — Quem magno in honore ac egregie charum.—habuerunt. XII. Kal. Julii, A.D. 1860.*" The address, illuminated by Mr. Kenyon, bore equal testimony: "You have been made, under Providence, the means of (in the last four and a half years) elevating this ancient foundation from a very low to a very high condition. And we will not on this occasion refrain from recording our convictions that its present state, intellectually and morally, is altogether owing to your own large stores of varied knowledge, your unwearied attention to our training, and to the kindness, firmness, and justice which have characterised the administration of your high and responsible duties. . . . We humbly hope that if we are prospered in our different and now gradually opening conditions, we may in our best moments remember you as the friend to whom we owe the moving cause of our success." How truly was that hope fulfilled!

"Amongst the public events in which the pupils of this time took ceremonious part were the opening of the park in 1857, and the laying of the foundation-stone of the Exchange

on the Prince of Wales's wedding day, the 10th of March, 1863. The Mayor (Mr. J. B. S. Sturdy) laid the stone, and there is in existence a picture of the ceremony which shows some of the boys standing round, though they were not invited to sit for their portraits like other notabilities present. After the procession they returned to the School and drank the health of their Royal Highnesses. Mr. Ainsworth provided cake and wine—the latter 'Negus' warm, and very 'strong of the water.'

"Perhaps the most interesting incident of this period was the establishment of a Cadet Corps in connection with the 2nd L.R.V. It was in 1860 that Captain Sheppard, who was the first adjutant of the rifle corps—indeed he was the instigator of the movement in Blackburn—proposed the establishment of a Cadet Corps to train the young idea. After consultation with the officers and Mr. Ainsworth it was started. Many of the Grammar School boys enlisted at once, and as a matter of convenience the drilling took place in the school yard. This was, in one sense, unfortunate for the corps, and gave rise to the idea that it was intended for Grammar School boys only, and so it came to be identified with the School, and to be consequently limited in numbers. Twice a week the forty boys who had enlisted were drilled by Sergeant Foulds, and after getting their uniforms always paraded with the Rifle Corps, and accompanied them wherever they went, marching at the head, immediately after the band. They were never armed, and after the Captain's death in 1862 no one seemed to take much interest in them, and the movement soon languished and died out."

Nothing could afford surer insight into the School's happy condition than the evidence of these narratives as to the public interest then centered in the institution. Indeed the decade heralded so auspiciously by the presentation and testimonial to the head-master in 1860 was perhaps the most successful period in the history of the Blackburn Grammar School. It is true that for an equal or even greater number

of years, until, in fact, after the new buildings were completed (in 1884), the numerical attendance showed little diminution; but in those latter years the paucity of accommodation, for both educational and recreative purposes, severely handicapped any endeavour to keep pace with the rapid advancement of the times, until at length the curriculum fell by slow stages as hopelessly behind as it had at the outset been conspicuously to the fore.

It appears from an old advertisement that in addition to the head-master and his brother, Mr. George Ainsworth, B.A., the second master, there were at the School as assistants in 1857 Mr. R. Robinson, subsequently ordained and appointed to the vicarage of Chipping, in Lincolnshire; Dr. Wolff, the French and German teacher; and Mr. F. Schnackenberg, who taught music. That the ancient custom of holding the annual examination publicly was still maintained, appears from the following passage in the local press:—

“The annual examination of the pupils attending the Grammar School takes place next week, when we hope there will be a goodly assembly of the governors and friends of the pupils. The prizes also will be distributed as usual at the midsummer examination, and we presume that amongst them will be the Mayor's prize, which his worship gave last year, and expressed his intention to continue annually, for which there will no doubt be a spirited competition. The boys feel it to be something to be Mayor's prizeman, and the emulation which the competition for the honour excites might be very beneficially extended by the governors subscribing, so as to give a governors' prize or prizes.”

Although several governors and the head-master annually awarded prizes for many years later, the particular token mentioned did not long survive, at any rate in its distinctive form. The “Mayor's Holiday,” however—a relaxation granted to the boys annually on each new appointment to the Civic Chair—is an institution dating probably from this period.

Four years later, or in 1861, Mr. James Briggs and Mr. Howard appear to have supplanted Mr. Robinson and the musical German in their respective positions. In the same year Mr. John Addison, B.A., one of Mr. Ainsworth's former

pupils at Preston, now a Queen's Counsel and Chairman of the Salford Quarter Sessions, and then a rising junior, conducted the midsummer examination. In his report he made graceful reference to the pleasure it had afforded him to assist his old master, and to "the same love of his pupils and his work" that had made the toilsome introduction to Latin and Greek easy to himself. "The proportion of time and labour to be given to classical studies, and their general importance, is becoming almost the chief question of the educational world. It seems, however, almost conceded that, in the utilitarian age, they are chiefly valuable as tending to form a habit of careful and analytical thought and accuracy of expression."—John Addison, B.A., Scholar and Classical Moderator T.C.D. The Temple, June 18th, 1861.

The high standard of excellence now achieved by the institution was maintained with little decline for many years. The picture of the inner life of the School during this period belongs rather to another portion of the present volume. Two circumstances, however, being of fundamental nature, cannot be overlooked.

On the 31st of March, 1876, there was approved by the Charity Commissioners, and on the 7th of February in the following year by Her Majesty Queen Victoria in Council, a new scheme (c.c.70) for the future management of the Grammar School. An epitome of this most important plan of reconstruction may be found in the Appendix [A. III.] Perhaps its most potent feature was the provision made for the erection of new school buildings capable of accommodating at least two hundred and fifty pupils.

On the 6th day of August, 1878, there was made an Indenture between John Tattersall, of Quarry Bank, near Blackburn, a Governor of the School, and seven trustees, also Governors, whereby there were transferred on trust fifty-eight Blackburn Corporation Waterworks Annuities. The object of Mr. Tattersall's munificence was the founding of "an exhibition of £50 a year for four years, tenable at any college

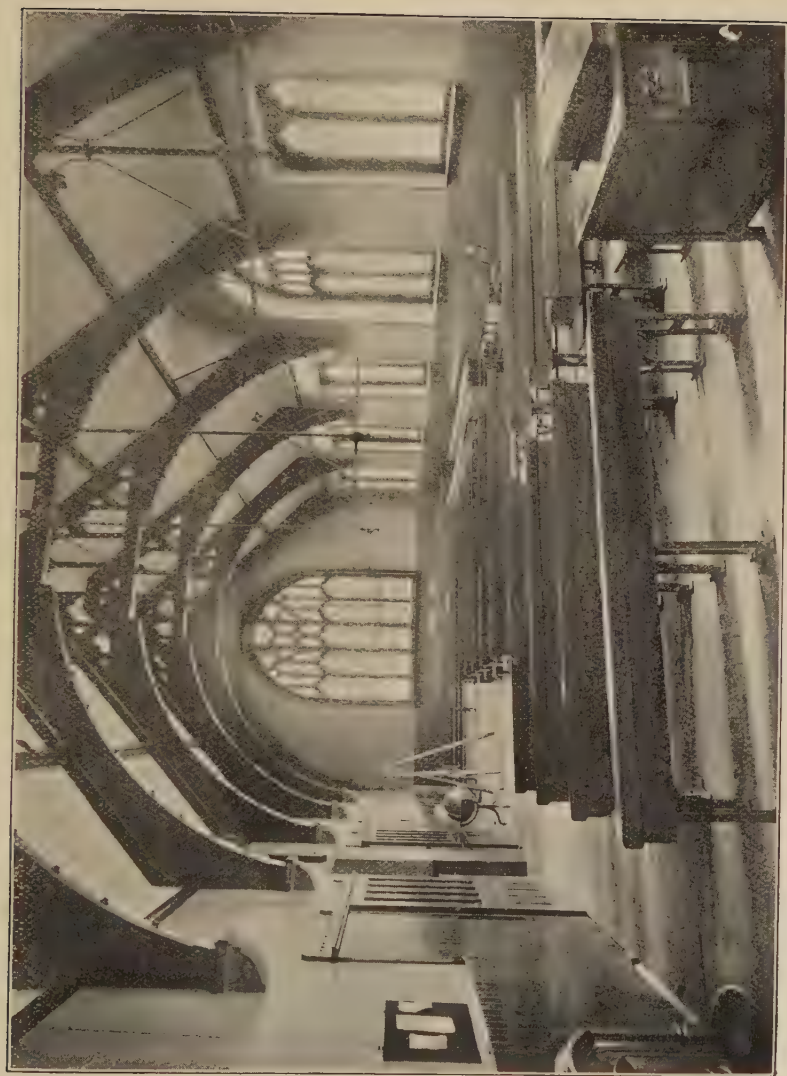
at either of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, to be approved by the governors for the time being, by such boys—the sons of parents resident in the Parish of Blackburn—who shall have received not less than the last four years of their education at the Blackburn Grammar School, in accordance with the scheme regulating the said School, prior to going to college; and who shall from time to time be elected to the Exhibition by the governing body of the said School by competition or merit, and to be payable to such Exhibitioner in advance half-yearly.” Provision is made in the document for the reinvestment of all surplus funds, accumulated either through lack of candidates worthy of the exhibition or from other causes. All such moneys are to be devoted to forming another exhibition of like amount, tenable on like conditions; and the nature of the investments is left to the Trustees, of whom there may never be less than three. The trustees who signed the deed were: Randle Joseph Feilden, of Witton Park, a colonel in Her Majesty's army, and a Companion of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; William Henry Hornby, the younger, Robert Hopwood Hutchinson, John Pickop, Robert Duckworth, Thomas Lewis, and Henry John Robinson.

The munificence of Mrs. Dodgson furnished, also, a few years later, nine exhibitions, providing nearly free education at the School, three of which are each year open to competition from the local elementary schools. [No further foundation scholarships have, as yet, been instituted. The sum of £10,000 bequeathed many years ago by Thomas Ainsworth, Solicitor, unhappily cannot yet be realized on the estate—Showley Fold; while a like sum by which the School will one day be enriched, at present is demised for two generations.]

In accordance with the provision made in the reconstruction scheme of 1877, the erection of new buildings almost immediately proceeded—and there was need. The Rev. George Bennett, M.A., who for many years annually examined the School, in 1893 remarked that with an average attendance

of from eighty to a hundred boys, under five or six teachers, all crowded together in one room, and without a single class-room to relieve the pressure, the School had been carried on at great disadvantage and much inconvenience. He was glad to find, however, that the noble pile of buildings on the west side of the Park, then rapidly approaching completion, and which he had inspected, afforded best evidence of the inauguration of a better state of things, and that Blackburn would soon possess a Grammar School worthy of the town, which would take high rank amongst its public buildings, and prove alike a public ornament and benefit. He offered the Governors under whose auspices the beautiful structure was being erected, his cordial congratulations upon the success which had so far crowned their efforts; assured, as he was, that every one who had contributed to the good work had reason to feel a pleasurable pride in having helped to confer a lasting benefit upon the town and neighbourhood of Blackburn.

A little more than a year after the expression of this happy sentiment, the structure was completed, being occupied first for the Michaelmas half-year, 1884 (the old system of subdividing the year into quarters being yet maintained). It was unfortunate that a portion of the otherwise commodious site had been previously used for a private dwelling. It was this that marred the complete success of the undertaking. Had it been otherwise there would have been for ever ample lands in close approximation for recreative purposes, whereas a sports-field must now be rented elsewhere. The building itself was erected in the south-east of the whole site purchased: the front of the spacious residence overlooks the park; but that of the whole pile faces a small right-of-way. The inner accommodation is excellent, but a serious defect is obvious in the construction, inasmuch as the Elizabethan roofs effectually restrict any extension, otherwise than by further encroachment upon the already limited playing grounds. The cost of the edifice was £6,950, and of the lands £2,808,



THE LARGE ASSEMBLY HALL.

of which £208 was the value of the site (1,000 yards), given by H. M. Feilden, Esq. The expenses were well met. From the munificent Dodgson bequest—a sum of £10,000—the Charity Commissioners sanctioned the use of £4,641; £1,740 was realised by the sale of the old school, and public subscriptions amounted to £3,168, or £9,549 in all. A neat chemical laboratory was added to the structure in 1891, at a cost of about £1,000; and the spacious gymnasium, a subsequent addition, with other necessary improvements in the sanitary arrangements, involved the expenditure of about £800.

The largest room of the school buildings is the Assembly Hall, on the west side, capable of accommodating several hundred people. It is fitted with exceptionally handsome desks, with uplifting lids, for the use of the pupils. It is entered about its middle by means of a corridor, communicating with the main entrance on the south-side, and with another exit to the playgrounds. From the Hall, sliding doors on each side of the chief doorway admit to two class-rooms, furnished like the larger room. That on the north side is fitted with colourless glass, thus providing an uniform light as occasion requires. Both rooms have also doors leading into the corridor that runs between. Over them is the second largest room of the structure, originally designed for a boarders' dormitory, but now fitted for the use of pupils in Physical Science. From the raised platform on the north side of the Hall, a doorway communicates with the lecture theatre of the Chemical Laboratory, and beyond are a small Preparation Room, and a well-fitted room for Practical Experiments. The new Gymnasium is also to the north, but in line with the frontage of the Residence. Entrance to it is effected from the School by a covered way. It is a spacious building, sixty-one feet in length, twenty-eight in breadth, and twenty in height. It is floored with pitchpine, and, to harmonise with the whole, is stone-faced at the ends—while from it a convenient stairway gives access to a dressing-room. In addition to the usual conveniences, there

are lavatories upstairs and down, while several rooms are set apart for the use of assistant masters. Below these is a large Dining Hall, used daily, and furnished also with adaptable desks for occasional use in study.

Such is the Blackburn Grammar School of to-day ; and such—with the exception of the Laboratory and Gymnasium—was the structure wherein the head-master and his staff continued their labours.

It had been hoped, indeed there had been no doubts entertained, that removal to more commodious buildings would at once mitigate the obstacles that by slow process were stifling the institution. But results did not justify the expectation. The numbers did not diminish, but there was not that unmistakeable increase which alone could show the town's satisfaction and implicit confidence. Four years elapsed, and the examiner thus attempted to explain away the unexpected contretemps :—

“The hopes I entertained that a large increase in the number of both day-boys and boarders would soon follow upon the occupation of this stately structure have, I admit, not yet been realised. And casting about for the causes of this, I conclude that, notwithstanding the increase of population, the supply of boys for the Provincial Grammar Schools is rather on the wane than on the increase. For at one end of the social scale, from which such supply should naturally flow, parents seem to be content to give their sons such education as can be obtained, at slight cost, at the higher grade elementary schools. And wealthier parents, at the other end of the scale, follow the fashion of sending their sons to schools of repute in the South of England, in which the admixture of classes is the more easily avoidable. So that, while the school has only held its own in point of number of pupils, other schools in the North of England have greatly declined: one old-established school in a neighbouring county, under the care of a master of great scholarly attainments, undoubted ability, and large experience, dwindled gradually to utter extinction not long ago.”—Midsummer, 1888.

Half he had divined the reason of his hopes' frustration. Had his search been more circumspect ; had he on enquiry found the school games languishing for lack of interested support ; had he seen in the lonesome detention-room the heart-breakings resulting from some careless wrong—the clue had been within his grasp. He might then with warning and

reproving finger have pointed to the great seventh precept of Wolfgang Ratke :

“Teach without compulsion. Pupils must love their masters, not hate them. Sufficient time should be given to plays and recreation.”

A spiritless youth! A dis-satisfied townspeople! Murmurings of the local Press gave utterance to the popular voice. The pupils of the institution, too, not slow to realise the impending decline, gave vent to an unmistakeable feeling in the boyish editorials of their out-spoken but short-lived organ, “The Elizabethan” :—

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

“Many of our numerous readers (this paper boasting of the largest circulation of any such paper in the world) have heard of, if not seen, the leaders and letters on the Grammar School in our local contemporary.

“Is there any truth in these articles? We consider there is. Who are to blame?—the Governors, masters, or scholars? It is certainly not the scholars’ fault: then it rests between the Governors and masters.

“The masters are subordinate to the Governors, therefore they cannot be to blame, and besides we have an excellent staff of masters, five of them being university men, and clever men among them.

“Then the Governors are to blame, and they take very little interest in school affairs.

“We should also be very glad to see the Governors reform and provide a lavatory and ground; when we shall not have ‘patiently to wait for the seed to yield its increase.’

“After these important articles in our two leading local contemporaries, we hope to see a reformation” !

The reference is found under “Original Poetry,” of which the following specimen will suffice :—

“ I remember, I remember,
The Grammar School on a hill,
The stained-glass windows where the sun
Came peeping in at will.
And where, alas! the darkness too
Would peep in afternoon;
And send us home (to save the gas)
Full half an hour too soon.”

Stirred beyond mere comment, the intrepid editors agitated, in person and through their press, for the introduction of divers reforms consistent with the remodelling of the School

on a more modern basis,—and not without some measure of success. The year that saw the death of “The Elizabethan” saw also, no doubt to the great satisfaction of its former editors, the introduction in the School of the system of subdividing the year into “Terms.” A new venture, too, was tried, some dozen of the foremost boys being officially appointed monitors, with power of punishing refractory pupils for breach of discipline. The head boy was their Captain. This idea showed signs of prosperous continuance, although the novelty occasioned little heart-burnings. From this date the office of Captain became a reality, and still survives in another form. Of old the head-boy was unrecognised as such officially.

Stagnation merged into decline.

The report of Mr. Bennett in 1888, was unhappily one which in spirit he could only repeat with emphasis on his succeeding visits. The cause of failure was not very obvious. The education, if elementary, was sound, but it was administered in the old way, by which a master teaches his own pupils in all, and every boy attempts every subject—a process by which it is impossible to keep in the race in these days of specialization. But there were other reasons of more serious weight, while less easily discerned, for the curriculum was more than sufficient for the general requirements of those for whose wants it was designed.

Slowly the numbers lessened, and like a great machine of itself, the School grew despondent and disjointed. The tenour of the writings in “The Elizabethan,” betray a lamentable state of feelings prevalent among the boys at the time; discipline was indeed a rampant frenzy. At a critical period the head-master was prostrated with a severe illness. But in this strange manner united at length in a common thought—and that seated in the best nature of man—masters and boys aroused themselves to full realization of the position. To one watching closely during recent years the varying fortunes of this old foundation, there might be seen something

of unconscious heroism in this last rally round the sinking ship. The stigma of mal-fame became the stimulus ; insensibly the routine of work fell into a smoother rut ; discipline was restored ; an entertainment was set a-foot ; the sports revived. But it was too late : the shaft had sped : the tale of lack of sympathy was told. Not all the successes in scholastic tests, nor on the sports field, could dispel the bruit abroad, or retrieve the tottering mansion from its fall ; and when in public council a solicitor of credit called attention to the languishing condition of the institution, the end was near.

And yet, within, throughout all the turmoil was being done a great work. Whether by precept or by example ; by perseverance, punctuality, and the exercise of kindly sympathy that, all powerful, stole the hearts of the youth falling under its sway—whatever, in fact, by his individual effort could be accomplished, in face of overweening obstacles was cheerfully and hopefully essayed ; but the irony of Fate, invincible goddess, veiled the fruits of labour.

“ Fame is the thirst of youth, but I am not
 So young as to regard men’s frown or smile
 As loss or guerdon of a glorious lot ;
 I stood and stand alone, remembered or forgot.
 I have not loved the world, nor the world me ;
 I have not flattered its rank breath, nor bowed
 To its idolatries a patient knee,
 Nor coined my cheek to smiles, nor cried aloud
 In worship of an echo ; in the crowd
 They could not call me one of such ; I stood
 Among them, but not of them ; in a shroud
 Of thoughts that were not their thoughts, and still could,
 Had I not filed my soul, which thus itself subdued.”

From all parts grateful old boys tendered their contributions towards the handsome testimonial presented to Mr. Ainsworth, on his retirement from the office which he had so conspicuously filled for a longer time than any on record in the history of the old foundation. There was something at least touching in the re-assembling to offer the tribute, of those who thirty-four years previously had expressed a humble hope that, if they were prosperous in their gradually widening

spheres of life they might in their best moments remember their head-master as the moving cause of their success. They had prospered, and that they had not forgotten, the purse and happily worded address testified. The latter was in book form, bound in scarlet morocco, with watered silk ends, on the face being a gilt monogram. The text, occupying four leaves, illuminated in the delicate school of the fifteenth century, was read to the few present, the ceremony being designedly private, by the first scholar Mr. Ainsworth received at Blackburn at the commencement of his mastership :—

“To Thomas Ainsworth, Esq., M.A., Head Master of Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School, Blackburn (founded A.D. 1567). Dear Sir,—The occasion of your retirement from the Head Mastership of the Blackburn Grammar School gives your old pupils an opportunity of offering you a heartfelt ‘farewell.’ Some of us who remember the low condition to which the School had sunk before you took charge of it, nearly forty years ago, were privileged to take part in the presentation to you on the 20th of June, 1860, of an address in which testimony was borne to the remarkable manner in which, in the short space of four and a half years, you had raised the School to a high state of efficiency. In that address were these words: ‘We humbly hope that if we are prospered in our different and now gradually opening conditions, we may in our best moments remember you as the friend to whom we owe the moving cause of our success.’ And now, Sir, in fulfilment of that hope, after a lapse of thirty-four years, we come to say that we do remember you with gratitude and affection as the kind and just master and friend whose teaching and example in our earlier years have enabled us to fulfil our duties in our various conditions of life. Others of us who join in this address, and in the small offering which accompanies it, have passed through the School in more recent years, but we one and all, both old and young, unite most heartily in expressing the affection and respect with which we do, and ever shall, look to you. It is not unnatural

that after a laborious life, of which nearly forty years have been spent as head-master of the Blackburn Grammar School, you should seek rest. We sympathise with you in your desire for retirement and repose, and in thus taking leave of you we pray that the Almighty may bless you and your esteemed wife, and that you may be spared through many years to enjoy the leisure which you have so well earned."

A POSTSCRIPT.

"Come, bright improvement! on the car of time,
And rule the spacious world from clime to clime;
Thy handmaid Arts shall every wild explore,
Trace every wave, and culture every shore."

Campbell—"Pleasures of Hope."

It was in the spring of 1894 that the strenuous efforts of Councillor Crossley were rewarded, and a sweeping reformation consummated. Mr. Frank Allcroft, M.A. (Cantab), B.Sc. (Lond.) and a former Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, was selected after careful consideration from over one hundred and fifty applicants for the post of head-master. Immediately he reorganised the School upon a basis consistent with all the modern principles of education. In addition, the scheme drawn up some years previously, under the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, came into active operation at the time of his appointment. The curriculum meets the wants of all, and physical exercise is by no means neglected. The first term of the new regime saw the number of pupils almost doubled, the second almost trebled, and within a very few months the attendance was well-nigh as great as at any previous time in the history of the institution. The School sports revived, too, with no little energy, and it was a happy omen that success of an exceptional kind attended the efforts of the first cricket and football elevens.

An event of standing importance to the School is the completion of the gymnasium, attached on the north side, which was opened with public ceremony amid many congratulatory and complimentary speeches on May 14th, 1896.

It is unnecessary to enlarge on the details of these two last years. Though marking a crisis in the School's fortunes, their historical interest is for a future generation. It is with no small regret that the pen ceases its efforts to paint the scenes of twelve eventful years, that in vicissitudes, in pleasures, in triumphs, in perplexities, have presented an unique miniature of the varying fortunes of the institution during the four centuries of its instructive history. It is with no small pleasure—however sad—that memory recalls scenes, faces, transient friendships and boyish enthusiasms. Each one has such recollections; to all they are dear, almost sacred. For every one the mind provides a book whereon Memory may draw at will.

A FEW BRIEF MEMOIRS.

“The web of our life is a mingled yarn, good and ill together; our virtues would be proud, if our faults whipp'd them not, and our crimes would despair, if they were not cherished by our virtues.”

In the lack of school registers, it is impossible to draw up with any degree of accuracy or completeness a list of those who have been educated, partly or wholly, at the Blackburn Grammar School. A few names of more prominent old-boys have transpired, and in some of these cases relative information has proved available. Such details are here published, it is hoped without the semblance of being invidious. For the rest let it suffice that besides those whose vocations call them afar, many, and even the majority, of the professional men and others in equally successful callings in the locality, have at some time or other “missed their lessons” in the old building near St. Peter's Church. Not a few have sailed for other lands; some compelled by the exigencies of circumstances or of health, others constrained by ambitions or bent on holy work. With some life has proved a tragedy, with others a comedy, with others yet again a toilsome but prosperous reality. In the farthest corners of the earth they may be found; in Japan, in Russia, in South Africa, in

America ; some have belied the promise, others the omen, of youth ; and some few brave unknown dangers for the enlightenment of their swarthier brethren.

THOMAS RATCLIFFE.—One of the earliest of Mr. Atkinson's pupils at the Old Grammar School. Educated there during the decade 1830-40. One of the many participators in the fortunes of the Cotton Industry. Has attained considerable proficiency as a student of Biblical Hebrew.

REV. WILLIAM ELLISON —Educated under Mr. Atkinson, and finally became assistant master at the Blackburn Grammar School 1830-42. Graduated B.A. at Trinity College, Dublin, 1847. Ordained deacon 1847 by the Bishop of Chester. Priest 1851. Curate at Padiham, 1847-49 ; at St. James', Bristol, 1849-51 ; at Stroud, 1851-59. At Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucester, 1859-71 ; at Gayton, Northants., 1884-90 ; at Stockerston and Blaston St. Giles, North, 1890-93. Rector of Blaston St. Giles, Uppingham, diocese of Peterborough, 1893.

EDWARD S. MORLEY.—Educated at the School about 1840. M.D. St. And. 1862 ; M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.S.A. 1853 (Guy's Hospital). Late Senior Physician Blackburn Infirmary.

WILLIAM HENRY COCKER.—Educated at the School about 1840. M.R.C.S. Eng. 1861, L.S.A. 1862 (St. Bartholemew's). J.P.

JOHN MARTLAND.—After four years at the Blackburn Grammar School, left at the age of thirteen for Sedburgh Grammar School. There, at seventeen, he obtained the Bridgman Exhibition (of £84), and matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford. He graduated B.A. in 1849, and M.A. later. After two years as Classical Tutor at Marlborough, and some time as private tutor, he became Tutor at Toronto High School, and subsequently at the Higher Canada College. After thirty-six years so spent in Canada, the following extract from the *Toronto Mail* testified to the achievements and ability : " The old boys of Upper Canada College, and

all who have known that institution during the past three decades, will be pleased to hear that on the motion of the Lord Bishop of Quebec, the Convocation of Lennoxville University called by acclamation to the degree of D.C.L., *honoris causa*, their old friend and master, Mr. John Martland, M.A. Dr. Martland is to be congratulated on the honour conferred upon him."—July 1896.

JOHN PICKOP.—Educated at the Blackburn Grammar School about 1843-7, and subsequently at the Preston Grammar School. Enrolled as Solicitor, 1855. Occupied the Civic Chair with dignity and success during the years 1873-74.

Rt. Hon. JOHN MORLEY.—(B. 1838), statesman and writer. Born at Blackburn: after a few months at the Blackburn Grammar School, proceeded to Cheltenham and thence to Oxford. Was called to the Bar in 1859, but devoted his time to writing. He edited among other publications, "The Fortnightly Review" (1867-82), "Pall Mall Gazette" (1880-83), "Macmillan's" (1883-85); and after two unsuccessful candidatures in 1867 and 1880, entered Parliament in 1883 as member for Newcastle. Adopted Home Rule: became Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1886, and again in 1892. Chief works: Edmund Burke, an Historical Study, Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot; On Compromise; Life of Cobden, Walpole, Chatham, in the "Statesman" series; and he edited the English Men of Letters series.

WILLIAM HENRY HORNBY.—Born in 1841, the third of five brothers, and received his father's name. His association as a pupil with the Blackburn Grammar School was of very brief duration, but of exceptional interest. It happened that owing to an outbreak of an infectious illness in the school at which his earliest youth received instruction, he and his elder brother, together with another local gentleman, were temporarily placed under the care of Mr. Bennett, at Blackburn. This was about 1851, at which time the Grammar School was absolutely devoid of pupils; so the trio, together



WILLIAM HENRY HORNBY.

with the master's own sons, were taught by him in his adjoining residence. The two brothers completed their education at Harrow. Before finally settling down to political life, William Henry—"the second"—served his Queen in the Russian war, under his relative, Admiral Sir Edward Fanshawe, in *H.M.S. Cossack*, receiving the Baltic medal. His first appearance in public life was in 1868, when he was elected for St. Paul's Ward. In 1876 he was appointed Mayor of Blackburn, and meanwhile was chairman also of his—the Conservative—party for twelve years. In 1886 he was first returned to Parliament, in succession to his brother, and has continued to sit for the borough until the present day,—his overwhelming majority at all elections, when opposed, testifying to his unceasing popularity with all sections of the community. He has long-time taken an active interest, so far as his Parliamentary duties would allow, in the Grammar School of his native town; being now many years a governor and a trustee of the Tattersall Exhibition. It were needless to add that the name of William Henry Hornby—father and son—will remain indelibly associated with the most remarkable progress of Blackburn during the nineteenth century.

"Footprints on the sands of time."

Rev. WILLIAM H. BAYNES.—His was the first name entered on the roll on the opening morning, in January of 1856; he, with his brother, arriving only a few minutes before the brothers Sheppard. He remained at the School until midsummer, 1861, being head boy for two years, and on his last prize-day carrying off the four premier rewards. After short terms at Lancaster and Manchester Grammar Schools, he ultimately matriculated at Wadham College, Oxford, in March, 1865, taking in due course the B.A. degree in 1868 and M.A. in 1871. In 1869 he was ordained deacon, and in 1870 priest. At present he is Rector of Warton. Formerly he was Curate of Tintwistle (1869-72), Chesterfield (1872-73),

Chaplain to the Forces at Hong-Kong, and Chaplain of St. Peter's (Seamen's) Church, 1877. Curate of St. John's, Pendlebury, 1877-79; of Worsley, Lancs., 1879-82.

FREDERICK BAYNES, brother to the foregoing. After staying some time at Blackburn proceeded to Rugby, and in due course to St. John's, Cambridge, of which college he was a prizeman, an exhibitioner, and finally a Foundation Scholar. He was bracketed 20th wrangler in 1870, when he took his B.A. degree, taking the M.A. a few years later.

CHARLES WILLIAM SHEPPARD, the third name entered by Mr. Ainsworth. After leaving school, entered as a boy the service of the National Provincial Bank of England. He established the branch of that bank in Liverpool about 1881, and managed it until autumn of 1894, when he was appointed manager of their branch at Middlesbrough—the most important branch of that, the largest bank in the country.

EDWIN FRANCIS SHEPPARD entered the Manchester and County Bank at the Blackburn branch in 1864, but removed to Manchester in 1868; and has now been since 1890 Secretary of that institution, after having been for a number of years the Chief Inspector of Branches.

ROBERT EDWARD BAYNES from Blackburn went to Rugby, and on leaving took the second exhibition in that school, having previously been elected Scholar of Wadham College, Oxford, in 1867, matriculating in the following year. He obtained a First Class in Mathematical Moderations, a First Class in the Final Mathematical School, and a First Class in the School of Natural Science. Taking his B.A. and M.A. degrees in due course, he was elected to the distinguished honour of Lee's Reader in Physics, and became Senior Student of Christ Church. In addition to his continued work in the University, he is author of a standard book on Hydro-dynamics.

Rev. JAMES PILKINGTON BAYNES also went from Blackburn to Rugby, and thence to St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his B.A. in 1876 and his M.A. in 1880. He was ordained deacon in 1876, and priest in 1877. Vicar of All Saints', Princes Park, Liverpool, since 1884, and Surrogate to the Diocese since 1887. Formerly Curate of Padiham, 1876-78; of Astbury, 1878. Vicar of Hulme, Walfield, 1878-80. Curate of Walton-on-the-Hill, 1880-84.

DOCTOR CHARLES BAYNES—the last of seven brothers all educated at the institution—left Blackburn Grammar School for Rugby, and thence—if information be correct—went to the Yorkshire College, Leeds, whence he obtained a Post-mastership at Merton College, Oxford.

CHARLES H. BAKER, M.A., left the Blackburn Grammar School in 1874 for the kindred institution in Manchester. Thence, in 1879, in addition to a Brackenbury Scholarship at the school, he was elected to an Open Scholarship at Merton College, Oxford. He obtained a First Class in the Final School of Natural Science, and was appointed Junior Demonstrator in Chemistry at the University laboratory. He has published in the Transactions of the Chemical Society a paper, the results of original investigation, on the "Absorption of Gases by Carbon." At present he is senior Science Master at The Schools, Shrewsbury.

HERBERT BAKER, M.A., left the Blackburn and Manchester Grammar Schools with his brother, obtaining, in 1879, an Open Scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford, matriculating the same year. In the Final School of Natural Science he, too, obtained a First Class, taking his B.A. degree in due course. He became assistant to the present Professor Dixon, then tutor at Balliol. He began a series of experimental observations on "Combustion on Dried Gases," and other subjects, publishing papers in the Transactions of the Chemical Society. At present he is senior Chemistry Master at Dulwich College. In 1891 he assisted at the annual

examination of the Blackburn Grammar School, giving a favourable report of the scientific studies.

CHARLES DARLEY was five years pupil at the School, leaving for Shrewsbury in 1871. Thence he went in 1877 to Oxford, being elected to the Careswell (classical) exhibition at Christ Church; and took his B.A. degree with Third Class Honours in due course four years later. He was enrolled a Solicitor in December, 1887.

ALFRED THOMAS TOWNLEY.—Educated at the Blackburn Grammar School. L.R.C.P. Edin. and L.M., 1881; L.F.P.S. Glasg., and L.M., 1877 (Anderson's Coll., and Royal Infirm., Glasg.) Hon. Mem. (late Sec.) And. Coll. Med. Society. Med. Ref. Blackburn Philanthropic Burial Society.

JAMES PORTEUS AITCHISON.—Formerly several years head boy Blackburn Grammar School. M.B. Edin., and C.M., 1879. Mem. Gen. Council Univ., Edin.; Med. Ref. Scott. Wid., Prud., Atlas, and other Assur. Socs.; late Res. Phys. Children's Hospital, Edin.

Rev. ALFRED BLAKEY EDLESTONE.—Pupil and sometime Assistant Master Blackburn Grammar School. T.C.D., 1878. Ordained Deacon, 1882; Priest, 1883. Curate of St. Peter's, Blackburn, 1862-64; of Burnley, 1884-90. Vicar of St. Peter's, Burnley.

WILLIAM A. HAWORTH.—Pupil, and finally Assistant Master at the Blackburn Grammar School. B.A., Trinity College, Dublin. After many years' association with the Grammar School's varying fortunes, is now Master of a prosperous Boys' Preparatory School.

HERBERT KING.—Educated at Blackburn Grammar School. At present Head Master of the St. James' Practising Schools, Bangor; and Lecturer on Education to the North Wales Training College. An elected member of the Court of Governors of the University College of N. Wales, and also of the Bangor Diocesan Board of Education.

Rev. EDWIN KING.—Educated at Blackburn Grammar School and at Trinity College, Dublin. B.A. and LL.B. 1881, *ad eund.* B.C.L. Dur., 1882. Ordained Deacon 1882, Priest 1883, by the Archbishop of York. Curate of Newington, Yorks., 1882; of Lightcliffe, 1883; of St. Thos., Bradford, 1885; of St. Paul's, Bradford, 1888. Vicar of Farsley, Leeds, 1891.

WALTER RIGBY (Spring Hill, Blackburn).—From the Grammar School proceeded to Edinburgh Medical Course. M.B. and C.M. 1887. Late Res. Phys. Roy. Infirm., Edin.

JOHN GILES DENISON CORT.—After leaving the Grammar School studied Medicine at London. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.), 1887 (Char. Cross); Med. Off. No. 2 Division Blackburn Union; Med. Officer Post Office.

WALTER GARSTANG.—First Tattersall Exhibitioner of the School. Proceeded directly from Blackburn to the scene of his labours and success. Matriculating at Jesus College, Oxford, in April of 1884—at the age of sixteen—he was placed four years later in the Second Class Honour School of Natural Science (Animal Morphology). He graduated B.A. in 1888, and M.A. in 1890. From Oxford he journeyed direct to Plymouth, having been elected Assistant to the Director of the Marine Biological Association, which post he retained two years. He was next, during 1890-91, Berkley Fellow of the Owens College, Manchester; again returning to Plymouth for two years as Naturalist to the Marine Biological Association. In September, 1893, he was elected Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford; and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London about the same time. The following year he became also Lecturer in Biology at Lincoln College, and subsequently Science Tutor at Jesus College. Author of numerous original memoirs in Zoology, published in the Journal of the Marine Biological Association; the Proceedings of the Royal Society, Proceedings of the Zoological Society, Transactions of the Biological Society of Liverpool,

Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science, Nature, and elsewhere. Engaged in an Investigation upon the Utility of Specific Characters in Animals, and a work on the Animal Life of the Sea-shore. An annual speaker at meetings of the British Association, and other learned societies.

JOHN WILLIAM WELLS.—Educated at Blackburn Grammar School. M.B. Edin. and C.M., 1887 (Univ. and R.C.S. Edin.) Medallist in Mat. Med., Mem. Gen. Counc. Univ. Edin. Mem. Brit. Med. Association. Med. Ref. several Assurance Societies.

FREDERICK WILLIAM STEPHENSON.—Educated at Blackburn Grammar School. M.B., C.M., Edin., 1893 (Univ. Edin.) Medical Officer for Factories.

JAMES WILLIAM WALTON.—Failing health compelled his abandonment of the Law School, his original plan, but he graduated B.A. in 1892, and M.A. in 1895. On leaving Oxford in 1892 he studied Theology at Chichester with the Vice Principal of the Theological College—the Rev. C. E. Scott-Moncrieff, M.A.—and was ordained by the Bishop of Chichester, on Trinity Sunday, 1893, to the senior curacy at Rye Parish Church. Some time Curate at Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne. At present he continues his labours in South Africa.

ARTHUR BROOKE.—First official Captain of the School. By the election of the Governors he became the second Tattersall Exhibitioner, matriculating at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1889. He graduated B.A. three years later, and is now Science Master at Hull Grammar School.

THOMAS JAMES GARSTANG became second Captain in 1889; but left a year later for Manchester Grammar School. There he was elected successively to Langworthy and Foundation Scholarships, and became head of the school and senior Prefect for the year 1892-93. In 1892 he was elected to a Somerset Scholarship in Natural Science at Brazenose College,

Oxford, but resigned this in favour of an Open Scholarship at Corpus Christi in the following year.

FREDERICK RILEY.—Foundation Scholar 1889-90. Matriculated at Keble College, Oxford, 1894.

JOHN GARSTANG — third Captain — holds the Tattersall Exhibition on its third award. Was in 1895 elected to an Open Mathematical Scholarship at Jesus College, Oxford





FRANK ALLCROFT.
Elected Head Master 1894.

Part ii.

ANNALS

OF THE

BLACKBURN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

FROM THE FOUNDATION IN 1514
TO THE YEAR 1896.

"Come what come may,
Time and the hour run through the roughest day."

CHAPTER VIII.—THE SCHOOL ANNALS.

SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

KING HENRY VIII.

- 1514.—April 4.—A Chantry and co-existent Free Grammar School, founded and endowed by the second Earl of Derby.

KING EDWARD VI.

- 1547.—The Chantry abolished, and endowments confiscated.
1551.—The original annuities restored to the priest as life pension.
1552.—Perpetuation of the Free Grammar School, and award of an annuity of £4 7s. 4d. by a Royal Commission.

QUEEN MARY.

- 1557.—A Royal Proclamation restored the Chantry and the original conjoint endowments.

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

- 1560.—Case of Parkinson v. Greenacres, confirming the decrees of 1551—1552.
1567.—A Royal Charter granted to the School—the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Blackburn—and appointment of a corporate body of fifty governors for the management of the institution.
1582 (?).—Appointment of Mr. Yates as head-master.

- 1585-6.—The Filing, Pleading, and Judgement of a case—
Richard Lyvesay and others v. Goodshaw and Halstead
—in the Duchy Court, by which the decrees of 1560, '51,
'52 were upheld, and the proclamation of 1557 quashed.
- 1588.—Dues (of 4s. or 2s.) exacted from the scholars.
- 1589.—Voluntary contributions of £132 13s. 6d. towards the
School stock.
- 1589 (?).—Further donations, amounting to £23 3s. 6d.
- 1590.—September 12.—Decision of the governors to exclude
from the rights of tuition, the descendants of those
Blackburnians who failed before the following Christmas
to contribute to the School funds.
- 1591.—September 30.—Recorded purchase of the School
Chest. Appointment of Oliver Lyvesay to be Secretary.
The use of English Plays, and the granting of special
holidays forbidden to the School. A fee of 8d. per
quarter levied upon scholars coming from other places.
- 1592.—Barnarde Smythe appointed master.
- 1597.—The School statutes drawn out.

December 21.—“At an assemblie of the Governours
of the free Scole of Blackborne, by one comon assente
Mr. Rycharde Rusheton, sonne of Rawfe Rusheton
esquyre disseased was ellected to be usher of the sayd
scolle and appointed to rec. all sutch stypend fees and
wadges as is or shal be yerlye due or app'tayning to the
usher of the sayd schole from tyme to tyme.”

“Itm the same daye Mr. Justice Walmysley dydde
bring in the some of twenty shillings as a legacie
bequeathed by one Barnarde Smythe, late scollem'r of
Blackborne, by his laste testament, which sayd some of
xxs. was delyvered over unto the sayd Mr. Ric. Rusheton,
then usher of the sayd scolle by common consente.”

1599.—December 21.—“Itm. it is thought meete that the some of twentye nobles [£6 13s. 4d.] nowe reserved of the benevolence of Mr. Willm fleetwood, esquier, together with xxs. gyven by one Giles Sherwoode of Blackburne, shall be delivd unto the hands of the [said] tooe Collectors, and the benefyt thereof to be bestowed and delivd to the use of the said usher.”

1600.—Confirmation of the School Statutes.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

KING JAMES.

1605.—A munificent bequest by John Astley.

1606.—April 23.—£40 of Astley's bequest loaned to Willm Rishton and George Lyvesaye.

September 29.—Two bonds on School stock sent to London for the recovery of the moneys over-due. Suit to be instituted in default of payment within twenty-eight days. The delinquents were Henry Warde and Thomas Frooste.

1608.—August 1.—“At an assemblage of Governors Mr. Edward Browne, nowe Schoole mayster at Whalley was elected to be mayster.”

September 29.—School stock : £142 16s. 6d.

1611.—Sir Gylbert Houghton elected a governor.

1612.—September 29.—Mr. Collinson appointed school-master. Mr. Browne, deceased, bequeathed 40s.

November 26.—Death of Sir Thomas Walmysley, a governor for forty-five years.

1613.—December 21.—A debt of Mr. Richard Risheton, amounting to xxiiij£ xvijs. vid. held discharged. [There appears to have been some resolution to deduct from the usher's wage, whereupon he resigned, and lost 53s. salary.] Robt. Osbaldeston, B.A., elected usher at a reduced salary of x£.

1616.—October 15.—Robt. Osbaldeston tendered a provisional resignation, which the governors accepted with alacrity.

1617.—April 14.—The usher's resignation having now expired, it was again considered and accepted. He was directed to choose a scholar "willinge to take paynes in teachinge of those schollers that are under the usher," so that the boy might temporarily fill the vacancy.

1618.—Richard Welshman appointed usher, on trial, until Michaelmas next.

1619.—October 4.—"The above-named Rychard Welshman came not att all to supplye the place accordynge to his p'mise." Mr. Collynson awarded £5 for his "paynes" in training the whole school until the arrival of Mr. Bradeley.

1620.—School stock : £198 1s. 8d.

1621.—September 29.—It appeared that the governors, in casting the accounts, had £207 16s. 2d. to "putt forth." Action decided against certain bond-holders who were not thought "sufficient."

1622.—September 29.—John Gelibronde formally directed to draw up the accounts, and generally fill the office of accountant, thus introduced.

December 21.—The accounts rendered, and from this date always in a suitable form. Ellen Warde was the only unsecured debtor. xxs. voted to the accountant.

1623.—December 21.—John Hargreaves, M.A., elected master, so long as the governors "shall like well of."

1624.—January 8.—Richard Halstead, M.A., elected master. Amongst the items disbursed are 16s. 2d. "ffor making a new schole dore, a locke, ceyes, and hinge, about the same door, ffor making of window lids, and repairing the roffe," and 6s. 9d. "ffor repairinge the glasse windowes, and ffor mending the scole wall."

It is ordered that Mr. Bradley and Robert Smith shall have iiij equally betweene them, ffor extraordinary paines taken since Pentecost last.

- 1625.—The School stock was in the previous year over £242. A large sum, probably about £200 was now paid, in instalments, for some lands in Mellor, whose rent of £20 was devoted to paying the master's salary.

KING CHARLES I.

- 1626.—The sum of £7 owing by Ellen Ward adjudged a “desparett debte,” and deducted from the stock. The schoolmaster's salary (£20) raised by xls., “to be taken out of the stocke, and to continue so long as the Governors shall thinke ffitt, and noe longer.” The bailiffs were paid 2s. for their “great diligence in arrestinge John Walmisley, a suertie for Rowland Houghton.”

- 1629.—“Paid to Henrie Abbott for painting, plastering and beauffilling the schole house, xxxjs.”

Dec. 21.—Roger Gelibronde, the school accountant, resigned; and handed over all powers and possessions to his successor, Richarde Talbott, servant to Sir Thomas Walmsley,—salary xs.

- 1630.—December 21.—Talbott resigned, and Adam Boulton, servant to Sir Thomas Walmsley, appointed accountant, at a salary of 13s. 4d. The schoolmaster's wage further increased by 20s.

Mr. Astley elected a governor, amongst others, provided he would please send his xs. to the accountant. Roger Gillibrande also elected a governor, in recognition of his former services.

- 1632.—The sum of 2s. per annum added to the usher's wages, owing to a little irregularity in payment during the few preceding years.

- 1633.—December 1.—“The whole stock of the schoole mony in good bonds and readie mony, lvj£ xiijs. vd.”

1636.—December 21.—“Paid Henry Baron, for soalinge the School windows with boards, iijs. iiijd.”

1637.—December 21.—“John Ward, Doctor of Phisicke,” elected a governor. The accountant’s salary increased to xxs.

1638.—“Disbursed to the slayers xjs. ijd.; for getting mosse iijs. ijd.; fot lyme and walinge, ijs. ijd.; for one locke and ij keyes for the house of office, xijd. ——— xvijjs. ijd.”

1640.—Another provisional addition of £2 made to the master’s salary, now £25.

1641.—August 9.—John Swinlehurst elected head master; Halsted (or Haulsteede) having ceased.

The key of the school chest formerly in the keep of his grandfather, handed to John Law, who was elected governor.

Mr. Thomas Hoghton gave to Usher and School £5 each. Richarde Bradley, after a service of twenty-three years dismissed; but awarded £5, moneys due both as wages, and for teaching the whole school for half a quarter.

1642.—April 18.—Richard Morris, appointed Usher on trial; and the head-master, Swinlehurst, awarded 50s. for teachinge in the Usher’s place as well for a quarter.

Civil War.—It was ordered, “by reason that the Mr. could not receive his wages, that there should bee £5 lent to him.”

1664.—December 21.—The receipts, including only one year’s rent of the school lands in Mellor, amount to cxiiij£ vijs. ijd. Among the disbursements—“Imprimis given Mr. Bradley the usher at his displasing, for teachinge the gramar Schollars halfe a quarter, ij£ xs.; and for teachinge the petties the quarter other ij£ xs.”
“It was ordered the 21st Dec., 1542, that the usher bee

payed for teachinge iij quarters of one yeare endinge at candlemas iiij^l xs." "Given Henry Barron for boarding xxiiij yarde and the schoole house, and for makinge a newe Cheste, iij^l viijs."

"Item for xvj sakes of mosse iiij^s., for latte and nayles lxd., for mossinge the said schoole xs."

"Item given the glasiers, Jan. xvijth, 1643, for xxxij foote of new glase; And leadinge xix foote of oulde glase, the schoole windowes beinge in ill frame, beinge broaken by the souldiers, and soe new glazed, wh. coste xvs. lxd."

Total expenditure xxxviiij^l xvljs. ijd.; leaving a balance of iij (xx) xv^l xs. [^l75 10s.]

1645.—December 21.—In the accounts: "Item given souldiers for strainage at ffarnhill, there meate and drinke that day, and driving the cattell strayed to Paitnowle xixs. vid."—Item, given Thomas Horrockes, for his charges and advisinge ijs. vid."—Item, for fetchinge them from Paitnowle after the siedege was raysed ijs. ijd."—"Item, for repairing the schole, for latte iiij^s., for nayles xijd., for mose xvijjd., for slaik vid., for lyme vjd."

1646.—December 21.—The arrears begin to come in, and it appears that there was payed to Tho. Horrockes, "the man that broughte the xlj^l from ffarnhill hall, for his paynes (the mr. given ijs. vjd.) the some of vijs. vid."

1647.—February.—There are fifty-two governors on the books.

December 21.—The Farnhill arrears announced to be fully paid up.

1648.—Mr. Willm. Yorks payed a whole year's rent for the Mellor estate.

1649.—School repairs xxiijs. vd.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

1649.—"Given Mr. Willm. Yaites, in full of a noate, under his hands, for eighteen bookes, boughte at London, and
G

carriage downe, beinge nominated, what bookes should bee boughte by Mr. Claiton, vicker; and by the Guv'nors conceite, the some of vj*£* iijs."

1650.—Redie money and stock, cxxiiij*£* vis. vd.

1652.—Adam Boulton, the School accountant, elected a governor, "in regard of the great panes taken about the schole business."

Precautions taken for confirmation of the Duchy grant to the School (*£*4 7s. 4d.)

1655.—Launcelott Bolton becomes accountant.

1656.—January 19.—Charles Segar, gent., elected master; the usher, Morres, awarded *£*5 for his pains in teaching the whole school.

1657.—In accordance with an order from the governors, Sir John Talbott and Richard Haworth had a deed of indenture drawn, conveying and assuring "a Messuage and Tenement within Mellor with th' app'ten'ces to the said Governors and their successors to the use of the Free Schole of Blackburne for ever."

For copying the deed into the "Schole boocke" (No. VII.) Lawrence Haworth received xs.

"Paid to James Boulton, Aprill 13th, for a booke which hee had boughte for the use of the Schole, xxxjs."

1658.—Paid to Roger Gelibrand, who drew the above-mentioned deed, the sum of xxjs. vjd.

KING CHARLES II.

1660.—Launcelott Boulton, the school accountant, elected a governor.

Total stock and revenue for past year, cxxiiij*£* ijs. xd.

1661.—January 23.—Thomas Walmsley elected usher. The old usher's widow allowed xlvs., wages due to her late husband.

The key of the schole chest handed to Thurston Maudisley.

1661.—The usher was allowed, as an annual gratuity, all the balances, provided they did not exceed £2 a year.

1662.—January 12.—“Launcelott Boulton was ffreely discharged of all accounts by paste, from the beg'inge of the world to this ps'nt. 12th of January; And the accounts taken from him and put into the hands of Thomas Whalley of Johill.”

1666.—Mr. Sagar resigned the mastership in May, and Mr. Sherburne was elected in his stead. In December Richard Duckworth was appointed usher.

1667.—At a special meeting in October, it was decided that “Mr. Thomas Wyld shall bee schoole-mastre.”

1668.—January 20.—Mr. John Waringe, of Brindley, was elected usher.

(?) March 9.—Mr. Oliver Halliwell appointed master.

1669.—[Mr. Sagar seems to have temporarily resumed the duties of master, as various sums appear to his credit in the accounts.]

1670.—Stock and revenue for previous year, £138 18s. od.; working expenses, £16 9s 11d. Mr. Oddy is the master.

1672.—Thomas Whalley, son of the late accountant, was elected a governor, and succeeded to his father's post.

1673.—A twenty-one years' lease of the school lands at Mellor granted to Leonard Clayton, Vicar, and William Yates—both Governors.

1678.—July 1.—“It is ordered that Mr. Hugh Wareinge Usher of the Schoole be absolutely discharged from henceforth of being usher or teaching att the schoole, and that Mr. Tho. Walmsley of Blackburne bee and is hereby elected usher.”

Ibid.—Richard Walmysley, of Dunkenhalgh, a descendant of Sir Thomas Walmysley, was elected a governor.

1679.—Recd. from the worshipfull Madam Walmysley, of Dunkenhalgh, as a gratuity from Richard Walmysley, her sonne, for increase of the Schoole Stocke, the sum of £2.

1680.—Stock (clear) : £128 3s. 6d.

1683.—Gilbert Bartholemew Walmsley, of Dunkenhall, elected a governor.

1684.—“Received from the right wo’p’l Sr. Edmund Ashton, Bart., the sum of ffive pounds, upon his being elected as a Governor of the schole, for which worthy gift the thanks of this assembly is ordered to be returned.”

KING JAMES II.

1685.—Mr. James Abbot, of Mellor, appointed usher. The late usher’s “widdow, Mrs. Annie Walmsley, shall be paid four pounds, eighteen shillings, and eight pence.”

Sir Edmund Asheton made a further present of £5.

1687.—Another gift from Sir Edmund of £10.

Mr. Oliver Shaw appointed usher.

1688.—Sir Edmund presented another £10, and a like sum annually for the next six years.

KING WILLIAM III. AND QUEEN MARY.

1690.—School stock : £159 10s. 10d.

1692.—James Burton appointed usher, “soe longe as hee behave himselfe well.”

1694.—The tenth gratuity of Sir Edmund Asheton acknowledged. The sum of all his presents, £90, exceeded in amount any previous benefaction since the foundation of the School.

1695.—John Clayton and Joseph Yates received the second lease of the Mellor lands for a term of twenty-one years. (Rent £10.)

1698.—“It is ordered in consid’ation yt ye audit mony due to ye sd. school for ye last yeare being in arrear by reason of ye change of officers and Receivers of his Maj’ties revenues for the Dutchy of Lancaster, that Mr. Thomas Whalley, ye Treasurer of ye sd. school shall pay to Mr. Burton, ye usher, ye sum of £4 7s. 4d.”

1700.—School stock : £184 2s. 2d.

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

QUEEN ANNE.

1703.—August 4.—Death of Mr. Oddie, the school-master. Mr. Burton, in accordance with precedent, received the master’s salary until the vacancy was filled.

1704.—July 3.—“At a generall meetinge of the Governors of the ffree Grammar Schoole. . . . it is ordered that Mr. Robt. ffoster, Batchellor of Arts, of Jesus Colledge, Cambridge, shalbee head master.” James Burton being dead, his successor, James Livesey, was appointed.

[The last entry of the First Minute Booke, covering dates 1593—1704.] “It is ordered, January 29, that Mrs. Burton, late wife of the late Mr. James Burton, usher of the schoole, shall receive out of the sallery due to the usher £1 19s. 4d., and xxs. for her portion of the bounty money due to her said husband in full of all demands due from the School.”

1705.—Aug. 20.—George Smith, of Burnley, B.A., Brazenose College, Oxford, elected head-master.

1712.—On the death of Mr. Whalley, who had been treasurer for forty-one years, the head-master was directed to keep the accounts.

Schoole stock at the time : £153 17s. 6d.

KING GEORGE I.

1716.—February 20.—“In the room of Mr. James Livesey, late deceased, Mr. Thomas Moon, of Wesham, in the Parish of Kirkham,” was appointed usher.

Richard Shuttleworth gave £5 to the School.

1726.—William Sudell bequeathed £20 to the School, and John Whalley gave a sum of £5.

1727.—Mr. Thomas Wright, of St. John’s College, Cambridge, elected usher.

KING GEORGE II.

1731.—June 23—Mr. Thomas Holme, of Brasenose College, in Oxford, elected head-master instead of Mr. George Smith, resigned.

It was ordered that “Noe girles shall be taught in the Chamber over the School.”

1732.—March 23.—Peter Livesey, of Pleasington, appointed usher.

1734.—School stock : £193.

1736.—Mr. Henry ffeilden, one of the governors, was chosen treasurer. Mr. “Daniel Markland, of Middlewatch, Batchellor of Arts of Brasenose College, in Oxford, elected head-master.”

1737.—Mr. Thomas Hunter, of Queen’s College, Oxford, appointed head-master.

1741.—January 20.—John Ainsworth, of Pleasington, and Henry ffeilden, were empowered to build new property on the Mellor estate ; and to renovate the School.

1743.—February 25.—Stock £221. The rental of the Mellor estate now £12.

1746.—Mr. John Whalley, “at the mill,” in Blackburn, appointed treasurer.

1747.—September 22.—A messuage and tenement called Pianot Nest, in Mellor, was purchased for £113 from George Ward, a weaver.

December 21.—It was ordered “That the original Charter of the Free Grammar School in Blackburn be translated into English, and read publickly in the said school every Saint Thos. Day yearly.”

1749.—Nicholas Parker, of Garstang, Churchtown, elected usher.

1750.—Rev. Robt. Smith, B.A., of St. Alban’s Hall, Oxford, was appointed head-master, vice Hunter, resigned.

1755.—Sept. 6.—Mr. Richard Guest, of Wigan, appointed head-master, vice Smith, resigned.

“The Usher shall take in such boys as can read in the Testament agreeable to the Master or Usher after having examined them.”

KING GEORGE III.

1763.—Certain scholars ordered to be expelled for defiance of authority.

1769.—August 28.—John Wilson, clerk, of Tockholes, appointed head-master.

1772.—“No days of playing usually called Remedy’s shall for the future be allowed.”

1783.—It was ordered that the “Master and Usher do equally divide betwixt themselves the entrance money, cock-pennies, and the rent of the Governor’s Room, or writing chamber, and every other perquisite arising from the school or scholars, except their salaries.”

1787.—Mr. Samuel Dean, of Manchester, was appointed upper master, James Radcliffe, of Mosney, writing master and accountant; and the Rev. Mr. Exton, usher.

1791.—Mr. Cardwell gave five guineas to the School. The Rev. Thomas Jackson, of Bentham, was appointed usher. All scholars learning Latin were to be taught by the upper master.

1792.—The Rev. Thomas Jackson appointed head-master ; the first occasion upon which the usher had been so promoted.

One Christopher Inman, of Burnsall, near Skipton, appointed usher.

1793.—May 9.—The School lands in Mellor were exchanged for others in the locality, bearing the names “ Nearer Green Meadow,” “ Further Green Field,” “ Shorrock Green Croft,” and part of the “ Meadow Field ” A sum of £15 was added by Mr. Sudell, the negotiator.

1799.—April 2.—The Rev. Wm. Lutener, of Blackburn, elected usher.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

1801.—June 2.—The “ Higher, Lower, and Middle School Lands,” in Mellor, comprising over thirty-one acres, were sold for the sum of £2,600 to Mr. Henry Sudell. The rental previously returned was £20 11s. 8d., and the governors now decided to reinvest the money and divide the interest, after deducting for repairs, between the master and the usher, in the proportion of five to three.

1802.—The School funds: Interest on investment (Mr. Sudell), £130; rent of Farnhill Peel, £20; Ward, of Mellor, £5; endowment (Duchy of Lancaster), £4 7s. 4d.; rent of pew, £1 10s. 6d.; writing master's room (rent), £3 3s.; total, £164 os. 10d. Court fees, 10s.; head master, £102 4s. 3d.; Usher, £61 6s. 7d.

1803.—June 30.—James Holme, Ealing, appointed Upper Master.

1808.—September 26.—Rev. Wm. Boardman elected Head Master.

1812.—Lands purchased at Dilworth; rent, £110.

October 4.—Rev. Ralph Leeming appointed Usher.

1814.—October 14.—Rev. Richard Garnett appointed Usher.

1819.—Office of Usher abolished.

December 23.—Rev. Thomas Atkinson elected Head Master.

KING GEORGE IV.

1820.—The old school buildings, on the site of the present Church of St. Mary, demolished.

1825.—Completion of a new school building in "Bull Meadow," now extant, in Freckleton Street.

QUEEN VICTORIA.

1845.—December 18.—Rev. John Bidgood Bennett, M.A., elected Head Master.

1850.—(Circa).—The School closed, there being no scholars save the master's own sons.

1855.—November 23.—Mr Thomas Ainsworth, M.A., elected Head Master.

1877.—A Royal Reconstruction Scheme granted. The corporation of fifty governors was dissolved, and the management left in the hands of twenty governors, under the approval of the Charity Commissioners.

1883.—The new school buildings, overlooking the park, in West Park Road, opened, having cost £10,758 in all.

1891.—A chemical laboratory built for the school.

1894.—April.—Mr. Frank Allcroft, M.A., B.Sc., Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, elected Head Master.

1895.—A gymnasium built for the school.

Part iii.

NINETEENTH CENTURY
NARRATIVES.

STORIES TOLD BY OLD-BOYS.

“For these words
It may be that they are a harmless wile,
The colouring of the scenes which fleet along,
Which I would seize, in passing, to beguile
My breast, or that of others, for a while.”

—“Childe Harold,” III.

CHAPTER IX.—THOMAS ATKINSON.

1819-1845.

“ Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
With blossom'd furze unprofitably gay,
There in his noisy mansion, skill'd to rule,
The village master taught his little school.
A man severe he was, and stern to view ;
I knew him well, and every truant knew :
Well had the boding tremblers learned to trace
The day's disasters in his morning face.
Full well they laughed with counterfeited glee
At all his jokes, for many a joke had he ;
Full well the busy whisper circling round
Conveyed the dismal tidings when he frowned.”
Goldsmith—“ The Deserted Village.”

A GLIMPSE of the character of Thomas Atkinson has been necessarily obvious in the history of the School while under his charge. It has been seen that his mere reputation as a Classical Scholar proved, on his election to the mastership, sufficient to effectively arouse the somewhat dormant institution, while his skillful management during an unsettled period still further advanced its fortunes. The omen of his probation was indeed auspicious.

Ever grim and calculating, however, he possessed those qualities which fitted him for a financier rather than a schoolmaster. Early he associated himself with the Stock Exchange ; and, his interest thus diverted, the apparent monotony of his existence seems to have palled upon him. He became severe, bitter, and exacting. He had within his grasp a supreme power for instilling the rudiments of knowledge : that power was his rod. The spirit of the times countenanced unlimited corporal punishment, but Thomas Atkinson, in his later years, was cruel, inhumanly cruel.

Short of stature, and overbearingly domineering by nature, the soubriquet "Little Cockey" was quickly given him. Pins were secreted in the cushion of his chair; and his tormentors took a revengeful, if fiendish, delight in noting whether he rose more quickly than he had sat down. His desk was oft-times broken into; the score of missed-work was erased, the cane broken to fragments, and all the participators and bye-standers compelled, willy-nilly, to smoke a small piece thereof. There was to be no "fig-informing." The boys leagued themselves in a prolonged and useless struggle against the oppression that galled them. What a striking illustration the school of this age furnishes of a quotation previously made: "Hatred of learning, antagonism between teacher and taught, the belief that no training can be effectual which is not repulsive and distasteful, that no subject is proper for instruction which is acquired with pleasure—all these idols of false education have their origin in monkish cruelty." Fights with his exasperated pupils were by no means uncommon; and it is upon record that more than once the whole number of boys in a body refused to go to school. Violent thrashings were the order of the day; so were matutinal visits of anxious and indignant mothers. But the fathers heeded not; they were spared a considerable labour.

Upon one occasion he accosted a late arrival: "Smith, you haven't wiped your shoes." "Yes, please, sir, I have," was the reply; "I wiped them on the mat." "You rascal, how could you wipe your shoes when you have clogs on. Step this way."

In private life his austerity rarely relaxed; his pleasures were grim; his one diversion was the game of chess. The chief feature of his daily exercise lay in the thrashings he gave his pupils. Once a week he would take some boys for a walk, and amuse himself by treading on their heels. Whether there was a more private and redeeming side of his character cannot now be said—"De mortuis nil nisi verum."

Needless to say, such tyranny was productive of many rebellious outbreaks. Discipline was enforced by fear, but exasperation oftentimes gained the mastery. It is related that on one occasion a dark scheme was planned by certain boys to avenge their wrongs. Being detained after school hours, in the dark of a winter's evening, and by the light of a solitary candle held by one of their number, the conspirators proceeded with their deadly work. Guy Fawkes was their hero. In a hollow under the head-master's desk was laid a mine of gunpowder; a sinuous train connected it with an accessible spot near the door. Experiments were in progress—the success of their plot depended on the thin line of powder. "Don't put so much on," suggested one. "No, don't waste the powder," echoed a stentorian voice in the doorway. The boys stood aghast. In their midst stood the head-master—they were betrayed. Had they been doomed to execution their flight could not have been more precipitate, nor their terror greater. That he might be more truly ever-watchful, as soon as his dwelling (contiguous to the school) was built, the head-master had caused two foot-square holes to be made in the common wall. Through one of these he had been spying, and the mere noiselessness of the boys as they flitted about in the semi-darkness proved Queen's evidence. In the morning, taking advantage of some slight error, he thrashed, with cruel brutality, the poor youth whose features the candle had disclosed on the previous evening.

The use of spy-holes, however, savoured too strongly of sycophancy for the governors to tolerate their existence, so the master's "eye-glasses" were doomed. Before coming into the adjoining residence, he had to walk from an old semi-detached house at Bank Top—always used by the Head—and every morning one or two boys were despatched as scouts, their announcement of "Little Cockey" being prompt signal for all "larks" to cease. A favourite amusement of some practical jokers, who had confidence in their pugilistic powers, was to rush in, seemingly breathless, as heralding

the dreaded arrival. As soon as all was quiet, and every face solemn, he would laugh long and loud at the success of his joke, and gratefully acknowledge the presents of slates and stale crusts that were showered upon him. It may be mentioned that at this time school commenced at seven o'clock in the morning, and again at one o'clock for afternoon.

There is yet another story illustrating the feelings general among the pupils at this period. In the course of daily lessons it occurred that each boy was to point out in turn, on a large map, the various places mentioned by their teacher ; but their fingers were not, at their imminent peril, to touch the canvas. One unlucky boy unwarily approached too near, and on the instant the master's thickest ruler crashed down on the suspected, yet innocent, hand. The aggrieved—a strapping youth named Haworth, of far superior physique—turned, and without a moment's hesitation, promptly kicked his oppressor, and soundly punched his head. There ensued an awful moment. Bathed in suspense, the boys looked for a momentous issue. They saw the culprit slowly realise the enormity of his transgression, and the master as slowly recover his breath and his dignity. The antagonists mentally measured one another, and gauged each other's ability—for once the master felt himself mastered. In the most solemn tones he could summon to his aid, he consigned the boy to the coal cellar—a grimy hole, famous in the history of this building, accessible by means of a trap in the floor. The routine of the school proceeded, and the boys were unusually diligent. After some time the master, now fully composed, directed some to “bring up that boy,” but the bird had flown. Genius had been at work. Coals could not get in “nowhere”; a whiff of daylight confirmed the impression ; and at length a small sky-hole, difficult of access, provided an escape.

Next morning he returned, however, and was sentenced by the head master to submit to trial and judgment at the hands of his school-fellows. The jury disagreed ; some thought he

ought not to be punished, while the remainder decided that he was not guilty. The master hardly saw the force of the contention, so he appealed to a certain stranger, one Captain Morley, who happened to be present. The latter, with military ideas of discipline, advised a verdict of "thrashing three times round the school," whereupon the boys, rising to the occasion, sprang in a body upon their would-be counsellor, and relieved their pent-up feelings by promptly "mobbing" him.

A very kindly "old boy," Mr. Thomas Ratcliffe, well remembers the school at this age, with its pleasures and its pains; and the tyranny to which he himself was never a victim, being accounted one of the "big boys" at the time. The ever genial Dr. Morley, too, tells many tales of his early school-days. Among his earliest recollections is the part taken by the pupils in the public celebration of the Queen's Coronation. He remembers, also, the interest which Mr. Atkinson, who was an ardent Tory, manifested in the local election which returned Mr. Hornby, after a scrutiny, by a majority of one.

It was about this time that Dr. Morley became involved in an incident of very amusing termination. One Wednesday afternoon—a half-holiday—he and another boy named Lewis were settling accounts in the usual way, and the latter received a couple of black eyes. This was a dilemma; both feared what the morning would bring forth. It so happened that James Boardman, whose father was a painter and decorator, being present, and seeing the predicament, at once volunteered to paint the tell-tale features a delicate flesh-colour, so as to effectually conceal the discolouration. It cannot be said whether he had any unsettled scores of his own in view; but certain it is that he adjourned with the unfortunate Lewis to his father's premises, and seizing a brush which would conveniently have painted a house side, transformed the dusky rings about the combatant's eyes into a fiery crimson. Both boys wended their homeward ways in

a happy frame of mind ; but next morning Mrs. Lewis was early at the school, and Mr. Atkinson wrath in consequence.

Dr. Morley well remembers the old "cock-pennys," the amount of which was generally a few shillings, and "woe betide him who did not pay." As a precaution the sons of wealthier parents would often present gold, to the extent of several pounds. He remembers also the public examinations, and how he secured the first prize in Euclid—a silver pencil-case. It came about in this way. He himself had read more than his rival, but the latter's knowledge was a little deeper. If "X.Y.Z." were substituted for "A.B.C." the latter would surely win. The proposition was announced ; the rival tried and failed, but the issue was still in doubt. It was with no little anxiety that the aspiring youth watched the examiner take the chalk, and with no little joy that he saw the "Pons Assinorum" labelled "A.B.C."

There is one whose earlier years were closely associated with the Grammar School, as student and as master, and who to-day is never mentioned by his old schoolfellows or pupils save in terms of deepest regard. This gentleman is the Rev. William Ellison, now Rector of Blaston, Uppingham. It was with no small pleasure that a letter was received from him expressing his willingness to talk over "old times," advantage being taken of a fortuitous visit to his native town at the time of the elections in 1895. Much of what he said has been used by way of general comment, but he remembered many points of interest connected with Mr. Atkinson.

Among the headmaster's customs was one in which may be seen a glimpse of grim but "harmless torture." On the occasion of a new cane being required, the boy on whom it was to be tested had the privilege of going into the town to make the purchase. Picture the poor youth, truly

"Remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow,"

as, cane in hand, he wandered on his gruesome mission, or in the porch-way soliloquised "To be, or not to be !" Nor

was this all, for if no culprit revealed himself sufficiently early after the reassembling of school, the cane having been handed to the tender mercies of the pupils at the previous quarter's end, some boy was despatched for a new one, and the master would try the implement on his unlucky messenger, with the assurance that "it would do for next time"—meaning thereby that, on the principle of prevention being better than cure, punishment was being administered before the commission of offence.

So hyper-critical was Mr. Atkinson that he would often measure with compasses the letters that boys had written in their copybooks; and, needless to say, punishment followed. So careless was he, too, on occasion, that after refusing, for no obvious reason, work written on the customary slate, he would within a few minutes, accept the same after his "crosses" had been surreptitiously removed.

It is related of him that on one occasion he questioned: "Pickup, what have you got in your mouth?" Of course, the ready reply was "Nothing, sir!" "Let me feel," demanded the angry master. "Not I, you shan't put your nasty fingers into my mouth," was the boy's healthy response. History is silent on the sequel.

Mr. Ellison's teachers and fellow-tutors were, at various times: Mr. Webster and Mr. Snape, who lodged with Mr. Thompson, the two former teaching French; Mr. Garstang, who subsequently opened a small school himself, and produced several brilliant scholars. (Many years he was actuary at the Savings Bank). Mr. Baynon, Mr. Houson, a mathematician, brother to the Dean of Chester; Mr. Hargreaves, and Mr. Percy Heavyside, who taught "the three R's." After leaving the Grammar School the last-named journeyed to Jamaica, was shipwrecked, and lost his all. After communicating with Mr. Ellison he returned to England, and found himself walking about Liverpool station without a penny to his name. Whilst tramping the platform, pondering his predicament, he stepped on a half-crown. So he arrived home.

One of Mr. Atkinson's few diversions assumed a somewhat risky shape. Having a collection of books no longer valuable to himself, he gave his pupils the privilege of tossing dice for them. Another form of amusement was equally novel. Dropping his pencil he would signal to a boy to pick it up, and take advantage of position to administer a good whacking.

It was Mr. Ellison who took the lion's share in coaching the boys for their famous handbell performance in the Royal procession of 1837; and it was his peculiar fate to be suffering at the critical time from the only illness to which he has ever been subject. But all the medicine-man's warnings could not deter him from his post on so auspicious an occasion; nor, indeed, was any sign of ill-effect discernible in the vigorous and kindly clergyman of this day. His experience of the public examination was of a singular character; neither his chief rival nor the examiner appeared, so the Rev. J. Porter, of St. John's, who filled the latter vacancy, awarded him a "walk-over."

It is related that upon one occasion about fifteen of the scholars, fearful of their master, tramped one morning to Preston instead of to their morning school. The toll of the "ha'penny bridge" proved an obstacle to most of them, although a few passed through "on credit," giving assurance that their fathers would presently pay their dues. The others forded the Ribble, carrying their nether garments above the water, which was some four feet deep. It was not to be expected that a gang of boys unable to raise a halfpenny a head would be well able to satiate their hunger in a strange land, so towards evening the fifteen weary pedestrians, now homeward bound, began to covet some bread and cheese. The issue was that those few who were blessed with a spare coin entered a small wayside shop to lay out their funds, while some of their less fortunate companions also entered, to see that no crumbs were left, or at least to gain a whiff. While the dame in charge, having served out the goods

required, retired to her strong-room to change a half-penny, one of the impecunious youths, by dexterious use of a knife, helped himself to a liberal supply of cheese, and left without waiting to say good-bye. His friends, assuring the good lady that they would be sure to catch the delinquent, gave chase with hue and cry, not forgetting their eatables. They did catch him, at a convenient distance, and the cheese was very good.



CHAPTER X.—REV. J. B. BENNETT, M.A.

1845–1855.

“Alas! what grief that feeling mind sustains,
In guiding hands and stirring torpid brains;
He whose proud mind from pole to pole will move,
And view the wonders of the world above.
Amid his labours he has sometimes tried
To turn a little from his cares aside;
Pope, Milton, Dryden, with delight has seized,
His soul engaged and of his trouble eased.
When with a heavy eye and ill-done sum,
No part conceived, a stupid boy will come.”—*Crabbe*.

THE lines just quoted exactly paint the character of this unfortunate master. Of his personality nothing need be said; of his work little can be recorded, for in the short space of five years his handful of pupils dwindled to nothingness, and his school was only a name. He was unfortunate in two ways. He was unable to adapt himself to the requirements of a strange community: his mind had lofty ideals: from summation of the infinite he could not descend to the addition of vulgar numerals: dreaming with Homer, or declaiming with Cicero, he could not without ungracious effort attend to clumsy renderings of Phædrus or to tame reproductions of Cæsar's exploits. He suffered, too, from the competitive efforts of a peculiarly favoured rival. A former under-master at the Grammar School, John Garstang, had erected in Paradise Street—then a verdant district—the building, now a Jewish Synagogue (with “Bethel” in Hebrew characters over the portal), then designated “Paradise Academy.” Therein many local men were educated, and thence emanated several brilliant scholars, whose memoirs unfortunately have here no place. Mr. Garstang's school became a prosperous institution. Later he became Actuary

at the Savings Bank; and in this post he died, a man of repute, in 1876.

With the courtesy manifested without exception in those who were pupils at this age, another "old boy," Mr. John Pickop, has furnished reminiscences of peculiar interest and importance, in that he was one of the few who were eye-witnesses to the gradual decline of the institution under Mr. Bennett. Having been also a pupil of Mr. Atkinson's, he can recall how the seventy or eighty pupils of the prospering school gradually dwindled in a year's time to twenty or thirty, under a solitary pedagogue.

Of the favourite pastimes, perhaps the most attractive was "Spell and Knur." An old game this, with modern and more elaborate developments. A short length of wood—the spell—was so thickened about the middle as to provide a small lever and fulcrum; on the one arm was placed a further small piece—the knur—the other and longer arm was to be smartly tapped, and the knur, springing into the air, was propelled into space by a blow from yet a third implement, the club. The boys not unnaturally vied with one another in the excellence of their three essentials of the sport. The comparatively rich provided themselves with beautifully-chased knurs of *Lignum Vitæ*; while for them a spring, controlled by a trigger, supplanted the ordinary spell. Their clubs, too, were of a specially advantageous construction, the handle being pliable, and the whole "turned" in one piece; whereas their less fortunate companions contented themselves with fixing a cheaply-purchased club-head into a stick. A field—since built upon—to the east of the playground in the picture (Chap. VII.) was that used by the Blackburn Grammar School boys for the conduct of this sport.

Cricket, of a somewhat rudimentary nature, was another game largely indulged in, on a field which is the site of the present St. James's Church, Mr. Percy Heavyside taking an active interest in coaching the boys. Hurdle racing, too, round the playground, was a much-favoured pastime, until

supplanted in latter years by a game which, though really nondescript, might perhaps be called "Storm the camp." It was played in the school ground, and the centre of attraction was a huge flat stone, several yards square, lying in the middle thereof. One half of the participators, standing upon this stone, essayed to defend their position against the determined assaults of the remainder, the fun being only augmented by the danger of serious hurt, and the recklessness of the combatants. So long as the school was there stationed, this was always a favourite pastime; and the extent to which the miniature warfare was carried on may be gauged from the fact that, before leaving the premises forty years later, the "citadel" was worn down to the depth of a foot of solid stone at points where presumably the attacks had been more frequent and prolonged. Its appearance was only rivalled by that of the step used for passing to and from the school, which was well-nigh worn through.

Mr. Pickop had amongst his schoolfellows two whose names are "familiar in our mouths as household words." Of these one was Mr. John Morley, who, after leaving Lincoln College, Oxford, for a remunerative post on the staff of the "Saturday Review," attained a more than life-long distinction as the foremost journalist of his age. He has combined Politics with Letters, and the mere fact of his having held the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland vaunts his ingrained talent. The other companion was Mr. W. H. Hornby, now for many years one of Blackburn's trusted Parliamentary representatives. It is true that Mr. Hornby was only a few months one of Mr. Bennett's pupils, but it is sufficient that the Grammar School can claim him as an "old boy." Mr. Hornby's connection with the School, however, has a feature of unique interest. It was owing to a contagious outbreak at Preston Grammar School, that he, his brother, and Mr. Henry Hargreaves, were removed and placed under Mr. Bennett. This happened just subsequent to the leaving of the last pupil at Blackburn, so that the trio were tutored in the master's residence together

with his own two sons. Mr. Hornby has long-time taken an active interest, so far as circumstances have permitted, in the school of his native town, being now for many years a governor and a trustee of the Tattersall Exhibition. There are, too, many old boys who to-day value highly, if only for their associations, the school prizes given them by Mr. W. H. Hornby, M.P.



CHAPTER XI.—THOMAS AINSWORTH, M.A.

1855-1894.

“O blest retirement, friend to life's decline,
Retreats from care that never must be mine,
How blest is he who crowns, in shades like these,
A youth of labour with an age of ease.” — *Goldsmith*.

OF the four decades during which Mr. Ainsworth presided over the fortunes of the Grammar School, each presents its own sphere of interest. A volume of unlimited extent might well be filled with the multitude of anecdotes and stories of these days that are readily available. It is hoped, however, that the mere mention of names, and times, and places, may suggest to “old boys” to whom such stories are of interest, the faces and periods replete with incident that belong to their own school-days: that then they may relapse with Lamartine into reverie, when “He carries Memory, the evening lamp of life, with trembling hand, all round the years, to-day dark, that have composed his existence. He piously carries the glimmer of this lamp over all the days, over all the places, and all the objects that were the dates of his happiness of heart and mind, in the best times, and he consoles himself for being yet living by the happiness of having lived.”

The first name entered on the roll on the opening morning of January, 1856, was that of “William H. Baynes”; there followed “Frederick Baynes”: after him “Charles William Sheppard,” next “Edwin Francis Sheppard.” The elder brothers’ rivalry to be first produced a story in itself: the winner arrived while Mr. Ainsworth was peaceably at breakfast. Like his schoolfellows, the present Manager of the Middlesbrough Provincial Bank has forwarded some lengthy and interesting



THOMAS AINSWORTH.
Head Master, 1855-1894.

reminiscences of his schooldays. One of his earliest recollections is the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Infirmary, which function he, with the other Grammar School boys, attended, securing front seats and an excellent view of the ceremony, which was conducted with Masonic honours.

“A noteworthy feature of the old school in winter was the number of boys who used to stay in the school during the dinner-hour, and warm their lunch, pies, &c., at the fire. Mr. Ainsworth was always kind to a boy who, for any cause, was prevented from going home to his dinner. The mention of winter recalls the evenings when a few candles, in inkpots, used to make the darkness visible; and when, as paper-work was impossible, we were ranged up for ‘mental arithmetic.’ I wonder how many old-boys to-day feel that those hours were amongst the most directly useful in after life. I am no genius at arithmetic, but I have always kept up the trick of working things in my head, and the ‘Inspector and Manager’ has frequently astounded slow accountants and inexperienced juniors by incomprehensible mental calculations.

“The brothers Baynes and I,” continues the narrative, “compiled a play—goodness knows what was the plot!—but the book of words was written out by me on note-paper and sewn together with red thread. (Why should I remember a detail like that?) We wore tin helmets which were made at some cellar in Northgate, and for which we were charged double the arranged price. We performed this drama one Saturday afternoon to a select audience. The big stone in the middle of the playground had an important part to play, but whether it was a throne or an altar or a fort I know not.

“Looking back, I think Mr. Ainsworth must have been a good deal in advance of his age in many things, and I think, too, he must have had the knack of getting boys on. I don’t think that many boys who leave school now before fourteen, as I did, have read a book or two of Cæsar, two or three of Virgil, most of Horace, a little Greek, less French, two

books of Euclid and Algebra to Quadratics : yet that was about what the average boy of my age was doing then, not to mention a smattering of science and physics. Mr. Ainsworth was a scrupulously fair and just man. He was more—he was generous, thoughtful, and considerate.”

His brother, too, the Manager of the Manchester and County Bank, calls back the time with evident pleasure. For his school-days, let his own words speak: no more comprehensive or interesting account could be rendered.

“My recollection of the Blackburn Grammar School extends to the time in the early “fifties,” when it was a dilapidated building with closed doors and broken windows, where silence and neglect reigned supreme. Happily for the boys of our day in the district, Mr. Thomas Ainsworth, the assistant master of the Preston Grammar School, was induced to take charge of and re-open this old foundation; and I well remember the day—in January, 1856—when, cleaned and restored, the school was opened by him for the reception of scholars.

“In these early days we were subject to much persecution from the boys in the street on account of our distinctive head-gear, to which they were not yet accustomed; and we were often pursued by jeering cries of ‘Mortar-board,’ ‘Slate cap,’ and ‘Four-square pancake.’

“We had no ‘sports’ and no school cricket club, as we had not a field. In the play-ground, of hard cinders, our games were mostly rounders, bounce-ball (against the gable end of the school), and ‘foot-and-a-half.’ This latter—a kind of ‘leap-frog’ from a mark—was stopped ‘by order,’ in consequence of the number of noses which got badly scraped by coming into violent contact with the cinders. Our gymnasium—also in the open play-ground—consisted of a pair of parallel bars, two horizontal bars, and a giant’s-stride. (Harry Varley was, I think, the champion performer on the bar.) We occasionally arranged on a half-holiday a paper-chase—‘hare and hounds.’

“Our chief companions were Will, Fred, and Robert Baynes—the latter was my own age, the others nearer my brother’s, that is a little older. Robert was probably the cleverest boy that went to the school, and his distinguished university career has fully borne out his early promise. Amongst others with whom we were intimate were Fred Gomersall, Tom Chapman, Hugh Hollinshead, Ted Ward, Edwin Dean, and Sidney Yates. Chapman was a brilliant caricaturist, some of his pen-and-ink sketches being exceedingly clever and amusing. I call to mind an occasion on which, after receiving a thrashing, he ran away, walking through the night to Preston, where he lived, and whence, after a few days, he was sent back to school. His adventures on his night journey, as described by himself—especially when he reached the ‘Ha’penny Bridge,’ and found the gate closed and a fierce dog loose on the other side, so that he daren’t climb over—were for a long time a subject of awe and interest to us, and he was regarded as a ‘hero.’

“Our French master was Dr. Wolff—a refugee, expelled from France at the time of the ‘*coup d’état*,’ I think. Like most of the Frenchmen I have known, he lacked the faculty to teach, but he was a clever and enthusiastic mathematician, and was also a good chess player. Knowing his weakness, we rarely prepared our French lesson, but used to lead him off on a discussion of some rider or problem, and get him so interested that he would forget all about the French lesson. He had a fad about some theory—I forget the subject—and wanted Mr. Ainsworth to help him to publish a work about it.

“Like most boys, we were not averse to the use of ‘cribs’ when we could get at them; and when the Free Library was opened we found a happy hunting-ground amidst Bohn’s translations of the Classics—Virgil, Horace, Livy, Cicero, Homer, and Æschylus were all requisitioned in turn.”

There was once at the school a boy—his head-master tells this tale with many a laugh—who created constant amusement by a most peculiar slip of the tongue. In the reading of a

Latin author, the word "jumentum" is of frequent occurrence, the English equivalent being "A beast of burden." The fun was occasioned by the boy's unwitting but persistent transposition of certain letters in the English rendering ; and his fellow pupils were so well aware of what he was about to say, that they were always prepared with a long laugh. The boy, too, knew well of his failing, but in spite of the utmost care on his part he was unable to correct himself, even after repeated efforts. The conversation would be something of this description :

Boy : "Jumenta——"

Master (warningly) : "Now !"

Boy (carefully) : "Bursts of Beaden !" (Laughter).

Master (reproving) : "What did I tell you ?"

Boy : "Yes, please sir, Bursts of Beaden ; no, Bursts of Beaden ; that is, Bursts of Beaden !" And so the poor youth in his vain effort to say "Beasts of Burden" continually repeated his blunder, more emphatically each time, as he felt confident at every attempt that at length he had got it right.

"In those days," writes an old-boy, "the middle class people had not got quite so much in the habit of sending their boys away to public schools at a distance, and the sons of most of the best families in Blackburn, Darwen, and the neighbourhood, were sent to the Blackburn Grammar School." There was always a fair contingent of "Darwen boys," and among them at this time were Mr. F. G. Hindle, solicitor and Borough Magistrates' Clerk at Darwen ; Mr. Ernest Davies, J.P., the ex-mayor ; and Mr. Jos. Eccles, J.P., of Myerscough Hall, Preston. The first and last-named, together with Mr. W. H. Baynes, were the first scholars sent up from the school to the Oxford Local Examinations, all passing successfully. In his many interesting reminiscences, Mr. Hindle writes :—"I, and the other boys from Darwen, used at first, whilst we were only eleven or twelve years of age, to walk to and from the school, a distance of four miles each way. After the first winter, however, this was found to be

rather trying, and we all became boarders. At first we had the much valued privilege of returning home at the week-end, until this arrangement was found to upset the other boarders who resided at a greater distance. At that time (thirty-five years ago) the turn-pike road between Blackburn and Darwen was not built up as it is now, and I remember that there were two or three lengths—now lined with shops and houses on each side—which were then so lonely that in the winter-time we used to button up our jackets and run past them, for fear of robbers or ghosts—I do not know which, probably both!

. . . Political feeling, especially at election time, ran so high that it penetrated to the school, and as the Darwen boys were of course always assumed to be Radicals, we used to come in for a good deal of chaff at times, the preponderant feeling in the school being undoubtedly Tory. I myself was a particularly fierce Radical at that time—Republican, I believe—and our discussions used to amuse Mr. Ainsworth very much. I can well remember the pleasant smile with which he used to lean back in his chair after dinner, and try to draw me on to a political discussion with the remark, ‘Well, Hindle, what about Oliver Cromwell?’”

One of the boys at this time was called “Bee Bob.” His real name was Wood, but he was never known otherwise than by his pseudonym, which had its origin in the enormous time he spent rearing bees in the garden, and his equally large collection of books on the same subject. “Another boy, the captain of the school, was Tom Chapman, brother-in-law to Mr. J. G. Potter, who was then beginning to ‘nurse’ the constituency of Blackburn, and used occasionally to come to see his relative at school; and as his tips on those occasions were particularly lavish, his visits were very popular amongst all the boys, Tories as well as Radicals. Mr. Chapman subsequently obtained some Government appointment in one of the West Indian Islands. He was a lad of remarkable information and literary knowledge for his years, and he succeeded in establishing a small library and reading-room,

and a debating society at the school. By well-timed chaff and raillery he diverted the boys' reading from the trashy and sensational literature so much in vogue amongst them, to the works of Dickens and Thackeray, who were counted as the masters of English fiction. In Chapman's last year he was so much older than the other boys that his position was quite exceptional ; but he ventured on one occasion to presume upon it too far, and was taken down by a most tremendous thrashing before the whole school. In those days neither the master nor the boys thought much about a castigation which at the present day would probably bring the master before the justices, or give rise to an action at the assizes."

Among those who are more especially to be thanked for information concerning the inner life of the school at this time are Mr. A. Read, Mr. C. Darley, and Mr. M. Brothers, solicitors ; Dr. Aitchison, Dr. Rigby, and Alderman T. E. Thompson. Mr. Read remembers what was probably the first real transgression of an ancient statute of the school [VI.] forbidding the use of English plays or interludes ; for in 1864 there was given a dramatic entertainment, mainly through efforts of Mr. Farrar Lonsdale and Mr. H. Hindle, then pupils. The rehearsals took place in the police-room in King Street, but the performance itself in the school-room, which not being supplied with gas, was illuminated for the occasion by means of candles.

In Dr. Aitchison's time, a few years later (some of his prizes being dated 1872-73), the game of cricket had gained chief favour, and matches were regularly played with such teams as the Oldham and Clitheroe Grammar Schools, Mintholme College, Ravenswing C.C. (Mellor), and the East Lancashire Juniors. He remembers well the fun caused by those who lunched in the building surreptitiously filling the ink-wells with coffee. But perhaps the feature of greatest interest lay in the annual entertainments, of which he recollects two. The room was illuminated as usual by

candles, but in this respect a new departure was made; for small pieces of candle were placed in wooden egg-cups, and these in turn nailed on to a commonplace clothes'-prop, the whole arrangement serving admirably for footlights. Perhaps the great event of the evening was a song called "A Chapter of Complaints," but there were many incidents not included on the official programme which equally amused the large audience of mothers, aunts, and cousins. In the first place, there was to have been sung a duet, professedly between a soldier and his lady-love. The female part was to be taken by a boy who happily possessed a falsetto voice, but in the excitement of the moment he lost the peculiar control over his vocal organs, or in other words, his voice "went," and after a few brave but ludicrous attempts to pitch on his erring treble, he followed his voice, complacently requesting his audience to wait for an hour. Then again, during an exciting incident in the dramatic performance of the evening, the heroine's "chignon" fell off and rolled under the table in the most obliging manner possible. But one of the youthful tragedians dived after the missing wig, and returned it in full view of the house, which was convulsed.

One of the standing jokes at the school was to push small objects into a master's desk, through the opening in which rested the ink-well. It is related that on one occasion a dozen living mice were so treated, in the hope that when the lid was raised they would "create a diversion." Unfortunately for the success of the scheme the master had stored there some confiscated edibles, such as are suitable only to the alarming gastronomic resources commonly ascribed to the normal school-boy. The mice had eaten thereof,—and perished. Rats, hedge-hogs, tortoises, and even cats, are known to have been similarly arranged as surprise-packets.

But perhaps the greatest fun was occasioned by the darkness, against which no provision was made. In winter months the boys were generally allowed to depart earlier than the usual hour (five o'clock); but there were always a

certain number who were detained, without supervision, to complete their arrears of work, while others remained behind to share in the frolics that ensued. As no illumination was provided, each boy brought his own penny candle, and fashioned his own candlestick. The fact that few boys were allowed candle-money at home was a far greater incentive to work than was the fear of punishment. But it was on the "holders" that chief interest was centered. At first the candles were shaped to fit into the ink-wells, to the no small detriment of the ink; but later, "bobbins," hollowed to admit the candle, and otherwise embellished according to the owner's fancy, were considered more elegant. In fact, the old form rendered the ink so greasy, that writing impositions (or "phrases") became a matter of difficulty, so they were ultimately supplanted in popular favour. After sufficient work had been accomplished, fun commenced, the nature of which will be more fully revealed on another page. There is hardly an old boy of this time whose first recollection is not the darkness, the candles, and the associated merry-making.

A boy well-known at the school during his stay, being monitor to the boarders, was "Jim" Sharples. He is now tutor to the sons of a Russian Grand Duke; and sailed with the Russian fleet on its State visit to the recent World's Fair at Chicago.

In front of the master's residence at the old school was a small garden, and it was a punishable offence for any boy other than the boarders to be seen therein, and even they were to confine their perambulations solely to the footpath. One of the day boys attending the school, thinking to pay off an old score against the boarders, climbed the rail and trampled on the soil of the forbidden ground. The boarders were arraigned, but so vehement were their protests of innocence, and their suspicions as to the real transgressor, that an inquiry was instituted. The boy's foot, of course, fitted exactly with the mark in the soil, and punishment was within measurable distance, when an inspiration came, and

he exclaimed: "Well, sir, is it likely that, with a hundred and thirty scholars here, my foot should be the only one to fit?" There was logic in the plea, which the master's sense of justice could not overlook; so all the boys were made in turn to measure their footprints in the hole. Needless to say, before the operation was half completed every foot fitted well, and with plenty of room to spare; so the ruse succeeded, and the boy escaped.

There is told an excellent story of Dr. Wolff, once the French and German master at the Grammar School. By nationality he was really German, and his sympathies ever lay strongly in favour of his Fatherland. At the time of that internecine struggle, the Franco-German war, he had retired from his direct connection with the school, although he received pupils for German lessons. One day he met upon the Queen's highway his successor, French by birth. Patriotism surged in their veins, and with little hesitation they flew at one another, each with his country's cause at heart. "The Black Eagle found his wings bound: the Golden Eagle flew victoriously away." Unfortunately for the victor's *Patrie*—unfortunately, indeed, for Europe—the issue of the great struggle belied the omen of this little skirmish. Dr. Ferdinand Wolff was a popular German teacher for many years, and that his talent was not exclusive appears from a reprint, extending over a hundred pages, from the "Gegenwart," of a memoir from his pen on "The Working Classes in England and France"—"Die Lage und Zukunft der arbeitenden Classen."

Reference has been made to the frolics that were wont to take place in the old school, on dark evenings. The following narrative is an episode in the history of one old boy, as recorded in a school weekly—"The Elizabethan"—published for several months about Christmas, 1888, and New Year, 1889. The extract is given for a twofold reason; it formed an important supplement (in serial) to an unique periodical—to be "reviewed" later—and it will haply recall to old-boys

of the time, the days when they, too, were active participators in the adventures of some such band as

“THE SECRET BROTHERHOOD.”

“A great and awful mystery, that Secret Brotherhood will ever be to me. I know not how it came into existence ; I know not how it died away. One ghostly memory have I of it, which the ruthless hand of time does not expel—a memory which, so far from throwing light upon it, makes but the darkness that envelopes it more shady and mysterious.

“It was near the end of the Christmas ‘half.’ [The old school division.] By half-past four it was too dark to do anything except mental arithmetic. Not even old Euclid could be murdered, for the ‘pons assinorum’ on the black-board was not to be distinguished. School was therefore dismissed early, and by five o’clock the room was empty, save for groups of boys gathered round the flickering candles, and scribbling hard at ‘phrases,’ pages of Latin grammar, and chapters of ‘Scrip.’ At half-past five most of these had departed teawards, their half-hour’s work being done. But to-night the occupants of the front desk still remain in their places ; some of them really are ‘kept in,’ but others are staying in voluntarily ! At six o’clock in comes Mr. Briggs to turn out and lock up the school. We grumble, but eventually clear out, Mr. Briggs following us, locking the door, and taking the key with him. But in five minutes there is a knock at the back door, and Mr. Briggs receives a message informing him that ‘one of the boys has left a book behind, and wants the key to get into the school.’ It is necessary here to add that Mr Briggs did not like lending the key as a rule, but he was now discussing hot muffins, his feet were in slippers, and the fire was blazing brightly, while outside a drizzling rain was falling. So Mr. Briggs was gracious, and the key was granted. No sooner was the school door opened than from behind the wall and the gate posts, and from the adjoining garden, mysterious figures

emerged and entered the dark room. Their faces were concealed by half-masks of black paper, with eye-holes, and they uttered weird and ghostly noises, interspersed with sounds more suggestive of mirth. Slowly and gravely the door was shut, and the figures advanced to the middle of the room, forming a ring round the wretched and trembling boy. After sundry invocations and incantations, the leader of the band asked of the boy: "Wouldst thou become a member of the terrible secret brotherhood?" Falteringly the boy replied, 'I would.' Immediately his arms and legs were seized, and a bottle held to his nose. 'Sniff,' was the order. And the boy, having received an inducement in the form of a pin skilfully inserted an inch into his calf, sniffed! It was a decoction made of onions, pepper, and snuff. After the effect of this stimulant had partly subsided, and other formalities been gone through, the leader again asked: 'Dost thou still desire to become a member of this most worshipful fraternity?' 'I do!' 'Then cast him into the lowest dungeons,' was the order. The large trap-door, leading to the coal-cellar, was then raised, and the aspirant to the privileges of the Secret Brotherhood was thrust down, the lid being dropped." The old building (after temporary degradation as a Telephone Office) is now used as a Spiritualists' Meeting Room. The connection is obvious. Are not the aspirant, the trap-door, and the Brotherhood still—— But no! R.I.P.

In the following term there began to be published a most remarkable weekly journal, of four pages, printed by means of a gelatine press. It was edited by three of the upper boys, and gave the leading items of school news, not forgetting the population register, under the rather lugubrious heading of "Hatched, Matched, Despatched." What spare space there was, the editorial trio utilised by poking fun at the expense of the Girls' High School.

The first number appeared on Saturday, November 24th, 1888, as the "Blackburn Grammar School Gazette," and

quickly ran into a second edition, the total sales realising about 1s. 7½d. The "Gazette" was announced as being "Non-political," single copies were sold for a ha'penny, and the monthly subscriptions "three ha'pence, to be paid in advance." It was evident from the outset that the editors were staunch advocates of freedom of speech, and the audacity of some of the "leaders" is remarkable.

The next number of this outspoken periodical appeared as "The Elizabethan," and so it continued till the end. Four numbers were issued before the Christmas vacation; and about a like number afterwards, printed, however, with the aid of a "Cyclostyle" printing press, loaned by the headmaster. In the first number of 1889 are leader and leaderette on the Abolition of Quarters, in favour of Terms. In the same issue appears the only meritorious literary effort of the series, in a poem called "A Welcome to the New Half;" the metre is not perfect, but the sentiment hardly betrays the hand of a school boy.

"See how our flag is waving, so proudly in the height—
As yet all clean and spotless, unfurled not by the fight.
But how long 'twill remain so, 'tis we boys alone can say,
For we are the knights to bear it through the thick of the affray."

The editors soon tired of their unremunerative labour. Two of them dismissed the third from their number, and then divided the net profits, assuring themselves that a half is greater than a third.

"The Elizabethan" was succeeded in the following year by a profusely illustrated paper "The Boys' Amateur," and this again by "Wise and Otherwise," conducted by two boys. Both of these were very praiseworthy attempts at providing literature of the nature of the "Boys Own Paper;" but imagine the labour involved in writing, illustrating, printing on gelatine, publishing and distributing an eight page weekly! The editors were indeed enthusiasts.

Almost forty years Mr. Ainsworth continued his mastership,

and during this time many improvements were instituted the beneficial effect of which are for all time. A reconstruction scheme was approved by the Queen, new and spacious buildings were erected, and several handsome legacies—one of ten thousand pounds, another an annuity (now) of seventy pounds, were bequeathed to the school. But that is least. He has provided many hundreds of the present successful townsmen, and others equally prosperous elsewhere, with an educational groundwork that has proved their making. Nay, more, he has aided scholars in trouble or adversity, as well by kindly sympathy as by practical assistance—many so testify to-day. Quietly and unseen his good work progressed, unthanked though he was by all, save a few deeply grateful hearts.

A younger generation, oblivious of the past, might arise to find a cause for censure, but in face of such, are many heartfelt expressions kindred to this:—"Not only do I feel grateful to him for all he taught me, but also for much generous human sympathy shown to me and mine in time of trouble and adversity; and I cannot conclude a few simple notes better than by echoing my brother's statement, that 'whatever success I have obtained in life I attribute entirely to the kind and just master, and valued friend who trained and guided me in my youth.'"

With the headmaster the whole staff resigned—at least, those who remained; for on the first sign of discontent abroad he who since 1860 had filled the post of "usher" (in effect) had disappeared from the history of the Blackburn Grammar School as completely and mysteriously as was his entrance effected. He was a man of remarkable appearance, of fearful and wonderful methods of instruction. No old pupil, who has passed through the lower classes of the old school, can forget the terrible knuckle that tortured poor victims' backs, or the fist that by a back-handed action well nigh dislocated their shoulders. Out of the school he degenerated into a mere man, fond of reading, fond of chess, and fond of a merry joke; but within, full well his pupils

laughed with counterfeited glee at all his jokes (for many a joke had he).

At one time he had a custom of asking a question, and pointing in succession to each boy of his class for an answer. But so rapid was the sweep of his arm that it was impossible for any save the two boys at each end to answer before his turn had passed, when to speak meant punishment. There was, years ago, a small boy, new to the school, of not more than seven or eight years of age, who day after day was thoroughly prepared with the tasks set him, and with the answers that were required; but he was always unable to prove that such was the case owing to the circumstances described. In his childish disappointment he asked to be heard alone, but the teacher could not swerve from his habits or his prejudices. "As you are a new boy I will excuse you," quoth he. "That broke my heart," says the narrator.

A veil must be drawn over scenes and times not yet historic. A future generation will recall with thrilling pleasure the faces and incidents of these later years—the days when the advent of "Use-Your-Brains"—good soul!—foretold a holiday; the time of the Monitorial "Inquisition;" the day when "Dick Box" penned his own epitaph—

" Here lies Dick Box
Who gave hard knocks ! "

the darkening Thursday afternoons, nominally devoted to art, that were spent in making "explorations" into forbidden regions of the building; the merry jest and song of the "breaking-up" parties: or the later period when, rejoicing in opportunity long strange, the boys celebrated the restoration of their fortunes by a series of triumphs on the football field, vanquishing their rival local schools; the night when *Lion* roared and *Thisbe* trembled,—or the morning when he who then played *Bottom* joined for the last time in the school-boys morning hymn, and sang :

" Time like an ever-rolling stream
Bears all her sons away."

" Fain would I sing (much yet unsung remains)

What sweet delirium o'er his bosom stole,

When the great shepherd of the Mantuan plains

His deep majestic melody 'gan roll :

Fain would I sing what transport storm'd his soul,

How the red current throb'd his veins along,

When, like Pelides, bold beyond control,

Without art graceful, without effort strong,

Homer raised high to Heaven the loud, th' impetuous song.

And now his lyre, though rude her first essays,

Now skill'd to sooth, to triumph, to complain,

Warbling at will through each harmonious maze,

Was taught to modulate the artful strain."— *Beattie*.

Part iv.

APPENDICES.

INTERESTING OR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

OF THE

FOUNDATION,

WITH OTHER STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

APPENDIX A.

I.—THE FOUNDATION DEED OF 1514.

[So time-stricken is this document that it was necessary to apply chemical restoratives before transcription of the writing became possible.]

“THIS INDENT. TRIPTITE MADE between the RIGHT
HONORABULL LORDE THOMAS ERLE OF DERBY LORD
STANLEY AND STRANGE on the one ptye And the
Churche Masters or Churche RÉVES of the p'oche Churche
of BLAKEBONE in the countie of Lanc't'e now beying for the
holl p'ochyens (1) of the said p'oche (1) and in their name on
the other ptye. Witnessth that where the said CHURCH
REVES and P'ochyens have purchesed certan lands Ten'ts
and hereditaments pc'll frehold and the Remnan't of Copeye
hold and Custume Lande w't'n the countie of Lanca't' and
Yorke pticlerly specified In a Schedule of A Rentall thereof
Annexed unto these p'sent indenturs As by certain evidents
consernyng the pm'ses more playnly doth appere toward
the sustentacion of a Chauntre to be made founded and
establyshed to contynue for evr in the Chapell of Or blessed
Lady on the south syde of the said p'oche Church of
Blakebone. And also Where as the said Thomas Erle of
Derby of his blessed and charitable mynde and for the zeele
and gudde luff (2) that he hath and bereth to the said p'oche
hath giffen certen of his Copeye hold and Customs lands cald
the Rygg-ehey (3) lying in Brunley in the said countie of
Lanca't' now in the holdyng of on Will'm Hyrstwode the

Eldur of the yerely rents and value of—xiiii S (4) o'er all charges as by surrendre in the Kyngs c'o't of the WAPYNTAKE of BLAKEBURNESHIRE, amongst other thyngs more playnly doth appere to the makyng up and fulfillyng oute of sufficient lands and te'n'ts to the sustentacion of the said Chauntre in the saide p'oche church of Blakebone for e'r.

All which lands and te'n'ts afore rehersed aswell frehold as cople hold be or shalbe sufficiently and surely conveyed to the layful estate and possession of the said Erle of Derby and giffen by and from the said Erle of Derby to John Yorke (5), Georg Cowburn, Rauff Wadyngton, Rauff Crichelaw, Henre Felden, Will'm Isherwode, Cristopher Mersden, Richard Crosse, Will'm Holden, Rogr. Whalley, Cristophor Bolton, Richard Hawkshagg, to have the p'm'ses that is to saye all the aforesaid land and ten't of Frehold to Thaym and to Their Heirs for evr. And all the saide cupie hold and custume Land to thaym and to their heires after the Cople of the C'te Rolles and the custums of the Lordshippe or maners Wherein the said custume land and ten't lyen to the Use and entent of the sustentacion of the said Chauntre and of Chauntre Prest of the same to Contynue for evr Accordyng to certen Coven'ts Graunts Orden'nes and Articles heraftur ensuyng Concernyng the Establishyng of a foundation of the same Chauntre.

HIT IS NOW COVENNTED, GRAUNTED, ACCORDYD, and AGGREYD, by these p'sents between the p'tyes above said for theym their heires and success'rs for evr conc'yng the ordin'nce fndacion and establishem't of the said Chauntre and Chauntre Prest of the same, from hensforth successively hereaftur to continue for evr. In the maner and forme foloyng.

THAT is to note (6) fyrst that the said Thomas Erle of Derby and his heirs for e'r shalbe FOUNDERS of the said CHAUNTRE and PATRONS of the said Chauntre PREST And shall have the NOM'CION MAKYING and PUTTYING In of all the said Chauntre Prests there for e'r. And that the said Erle Wtn XX dayes next aft' the dae of these p'sents by hys

Wrytyng and his Sealls shall name and make Sr. Edm'nd Bolton Chauntre Prest of the said Chauntre. And to hym giff the said Chauntre Wt all the land belongyng to the same, To have and to Inioye (7) the same Chauntre and land to the said Sr. Edm'nd during his liff In sekenes and in helth the said Prest serving the said Chauntre accordyng to this P'sent orden'ne and foundation. And that the said Erle and his heirs wtn XX dayes next aft' that he or they shall have knowledge of the deces of the said Sr. Edm'nd or of any other next Avoydance of the said Chauntre by resignacion amocion privatio' SURRENDRE OR OTHER WISE from the said p'ochyens, shall name make and putte In by their Writting Another honest seculer prest. And on regule' (8) sufficiently learned In Gramer and Playn Song if any such can be gotten that shall kepe contennally A FREE GRAMER SCOLE and maynten and keep the sou (9) syde of the quere as on(e) man may in his Surplys evr' holy daie through the yere to be Chauntre prest there Duryng his liffe.

AND IN LYKE WISE wtn XX dayes aft' ony Avoyding of said Chauntre by Deth Resignacion Amocion Privacion Surrendr or other Wise of any other Chauntre Prest ther And aftur knowledge thereof giffen to the said Erle or his heirs THAT THE SAID ERLE of Derby and hys heirs for e'r shall by their wrytyng and thair sealls name make and putt In Another ABLE SECLER prest sufficiently lerned in Gramer and playn song that SHALL KEPE a FREE GRAMER SCOLE continually In BLAKEBONE AFORESAID and shall maynten the sou (9) syde of the quere in the said p'oche church of Blakebone to his power eny holy daye at the tyme of all Devyne Sur'ce there. And if it fortune ar any Avoydunce of any Chauntre p'st there hereaft' as is aforesaid that noo secular prest can be founden that is able and sulliciently lerned in Gramer and playn song then to s'ne (10) and do as is aforesaid. That then the said Erle his heires shall NAME MAKE and PUT in Wttn XX dayes then next to foloyng. A nother Able Secler PREST that is expte and can synge both

PRICKESONGE and PLAYLONGE and hath a syght in Discant if any such can be gottyn which shall teche a Free SONGE SCOLE in Blakebone afore said and also shall kepe the QUERE in the said p'oche church of Blakebone ev'ry holy daye through the ye'r at the tyme of all Divine Sirvce kept there. AND IF NO such prest can be gottyn then the said Erle and his heires to name and make such A nother Able secler prest to be Chauntre prest ther' as the Church Wardens ther' for ye tyme beyng shall thinke that shall be most sufficient for the mayntennce of the quere and Dyvine Sirvce in the said church. And to keep always (11) a ffree GRAMER or a SONGE SCOLE continually ther. And if the said Erle (12) nore his heires put in no such Chauntre prest there accordyng as is afore expressed Wtn the tyme afore (13) lymityd that then the said Church Wardens for the tyme beyng shall pvide pytt in and make a graunte of the said Chauntre and Lande for ev'y such tyme only to a LYKE ABLE SECULER PREST AS IS AFORESAID.

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IN WITNESSE wherofe to ev'y pte of these p'snt (6) Indenturs Triptite wherof one pte shall remayne with the said Erle and his heirrs And a nother pte therof shall remayne wt the said Church REVES for the tyme beyng And the thridde pte in the Custody of the said Chauntre PRESTS successivele for evr. As well the said Erle of Derby as the said Church Reves now there beyng by the holl and free assent of the most pte of all the p'ochyens of the said p'oche of Blakebone, have sett thaire sealls. YIVEN at Lathum the iiiith Daye of Aprill In the year of the Incarnacion of our LORD I.H.S. CRIST A thousand fyvehundereth and ffourtene And in the Vth yere of the Regn of Kyng Henr' the Egte."

NOTES.—(1) Paroche (Parish). (2) Love. (3) Whittaker and Abram have "Eggye-hey." (4) W. has xv. shils, quoted by A. (5) An erasure in MS. (6) Dubious. (7) Enjoy. (8) "No rogule." No seems to be generally written for "one." (9) Or "one" (?) (10) Synge, sing. (11) "Awiher" (?) (12) Change of penmanship. (13) Dubious; blotted.

No signature appears on the first Seal and the second is missing ; the others are probably those of the Church Reves :

(iii.) Rauff Wad

Dynton [Waddnynton].

(iv.) Rauff Crichelow.

(v.) Hen. J. Felden.

II.—THE ROYAL CHARTER OF 1567.

[The document is in a beautiful state of preservation. The latter part of this translation from the Latin was made by Mr. T. Clough. The commencement is part of the official version of 1747.]

“ Elizabeth, by the Grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

“ To all persons to whom these present letters shall come Greeting ; Know ye, that We, upon the humble Petition, as well of the Inhabitants of the Village and Parish of Blackburn, in our County of Lancaster, as of others, many of our Subjects in the whole Country in the Neighbourhood thereof, to Us, for a Grammar School, to be then erected and established, for the institution and instruction of boys and young persons, of our Special Grace, and our Certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, we will, grant, and for us, our Heirs and Successors, ordain, that henceforth there be and shall be one Grammar School, in the said village of Blackburn, which shall be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, for the education, institution, and instruction of Boys and Young Persons in Grammar, to be and remain for ever ; and we do by these Presents, Erect, Create, Ordain and Found that School to continue for ever of one Master or Pedagogue, and one Sub-Pedagogue or usher.

“ And that this our aforesaid Intent may take the better

effect, and that the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues, and other issues to be granted, assigned, and appointed for the support of the aforesaid School, may be the better governed for the continuance of the same, We will and ordain, that henceforth for ever there be, and shall be, in the Village and Parish of Blackburn aforesaid, fifty men of the more discreet, and more honester of the Inhabitants or Freeholders, of the aforesaid Village and Parish, for the time being, who shall be called Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods, of the said Free School, commonly called, and to be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Blackburn, in the County of Lancaster.

“ And therefore know ye, that We have assigned, chosen, named, and appointed; and by these Presents do assign, choose, name, and appoint our beloved Gilbert Gerrard, Esq., our Attorney-General, also our beloved Sir Thomas Langton, Knight; Sir John Southworth, Knight; Sir Thomas Hesketh, Knight; Sir William Ratcliffe, Knight; John Osbaldiston, Esq.; Henry Talbot, Esq.; John Talbot, Esq.; Robert Barton, Esq.; William Farrington, Esq.; Ralph Rissheton, Esq.; John Braddell, Esq.; John Hylton, Clerk, Vicar of Blackburn aforesaid; also Richard Livesaye, gentleman; Laurence Ainsworth, gentleman; George Astley, gentleman; Robert Morley, gentleman; William Clayton, gentleman; Robert Astley, gentleman; Thomas Walmysley, gentleman; Alexander Osbaldeston, gentleman; John Isherwoode, James Whithalgh, James Garstange, Thomas Holden, Evan Holden, Robert Bolton, Richard Cunliffe, Thomas Gillibrand, Thurstan Maudesley, William Dewhurst, William Barker, Christopher Mersden, Robert Warde, Robert Waddington, Richard Page, William Page, John Cowburne, Henry Mersden, John Linnols, Richard Ducksburys, Roger Gillibrand, Richard Heyworth, Thomas Whitehalgh, George Asheton, John Hodgeson, Alexander Bolton, Richard Edleston, Adam Bolton, Randal Feilden, Inhabitants and Freeholders in the said Village and Parish of Blackburn, to be and remain first and new

Governors of the Possessions, Revenues, and Goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Blackburn, in the County of Lancaster, the same Office, well and truly to exercise and occupy, from the Date of these Presents, during their Lives, and the Lives of the longer Livers of them. And that the same Governors to all Intents and Purposes, in fact, may be, and shall be, one Body Corporate and Politick of themselves for ever; by the name of the Governours of the Possessions, Revenues, and Estates, of the Free Grammar School of QUEEN Elizabeth, in Blackburn, in the County of Lancaster, incorporated, and erected, and the same Governours of the Possessions, Revenues, and Estates, of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Blackburn, in the County of Lancaster, by these Presents we do incorporate, and the Body Corporate and Politick, by the same Name for ever, to remain really and truly, We do create, erect, ordain, make, and appoint by these Presents. And we will, and by these presents do ordain and grant that the said Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Blackburn, have perpetual succession, and by the same name he and shall be persons able and in law capable to acquire, receive, and take and hold demesnes, manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, tithes, possessions, revenues, hereditaments whatever, or of what kind, nature, or sort, soever they shall be, to themselves and successors in fee and perpetuity; and likewise to give, grant, let and assign the same lands, tenements and hereditaments, and all and singular other acts and deeds to do and execute by the name aforesaid. And that by the name of the Governors of the revenues, possessions and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Blackburn, they shall and may plead, and be impleaded, answer, and be answered, defend, and be defended in whatsoever Courts, Places, and Steads, and before whatsoever Judges, and Justices, and likewise other Persons, and our Officers in all and Singular Actions, Suits, Complaints,

Causes, Matters and Demands, whatsoever, or of whatsoever Kind, Nature or Sort soever, they shall be by the same Method and Form, as other our liege People of England, Persons able, and in Law capable to plead and be impleaded, answer, and to be answered, defend and be defended, have, perceive, receive, possess, give, grant and let, can or may. And that the aforesaid Governours and their Successors, in fact may have for ever one Common Seal, that shall serve and be used for the Causes and Businesses what sort soever of them, and of their Successors. And moreover we grant, ordain, and by these presents decree that whensoever it shall happen that one or more of the said fifty governors shall die, that then and so often it shall be lawful for the said other Governors surviving or the major part of the same at that time residing and living in the said vill and parish of Blackburn to elect and nominate another fit person, or other fit persons, of the Inhabitants or Freeholders of the vill and parish of Blackburn aforesaid, into the places of him or them so dying, to succeed in the said office of Governor, and this so often as the case shall happen. And furthermore, of our further grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, to the aforesaid new Governors and their successors, and to the major part of the same, full power and authority of naming and appointing a Master and Under Master of the said School, so often as the same shall be void of a master or under master ; and that the same Governors for the time being from time to time make, and have power and authority to make, fit and wholesome Statutes and Ordinances in writing, concerning and touching the preservation and disposition of the rents and revenues appointed for the support of the said School, which statutes and orders so to be made, we will and grant, and by these presents command inviolably to be observed from time to time for ever. And furthermore, know ye, that in consideration that the said Governors and their successors may the better support and

sustain the charge of the same School, and of the master and under-master thereof, from time to time, of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant unto the aforesaid new Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the said Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, in Blackburn aforesaid, and their successors, special and free license, and lawful faculty, power and authority of having, receiving and acquiring, to them and to their successors for ever, as well of us, our heirs and successors, as of any other person or persons whatsoever, whatever manors, messuages, tenements, rectories, tithes, or other hereditaments whatsoever, within the kingdom of England, or in any other place within our dominions, which are not held of us immediately in chief, provided that they do not exceed the clear annual value of Thirty Pounds, to the aforesaid Governors and their successor, as above related, on being granted by us in form aforesaid, the statute of lands and tenements in Mortmain, or any other statute, act, ordinance or provision, notwithstanding. And we will and by these presents do grant to the aforesaid new Governors that they have and shall have these our letters Patent under our Great Seal of England duly executed and sealed, without fine or fee, great or small, to be paid, yielded or made to us in our Hanaper Court, or in any other place, or in any way for our use; so far, at least as express mention is made of the true yearly value, or of any other value or certitude of the premises, or of any part thereof, or of any other grants or gifts made by us in these presents, or by any of our progenitors, to the aforesaid new Governors of the said Free Grammar School in Blackburn, and their predecessors before these times, any other statute, act, ordinance, provision, proclamation or restriction, made, published, ordained or provided to the contrary notwithstanding. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made Patent. Witness our Seal at Gorhambury, the Eighth day of August, in the Ninth year of Our Reign.

By Writ under Privy Seal, and of the date aforesaid, by authority of Parliament.”—BUGGYN.

III.—THE RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME OF 1876.

This a lengthy scheme, under the approval of the Charity Commissioners, relating to the management of the Institution, and now in active operation.

An epitome is appended, numbers indicating the clauses from which the jottings are made.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOUNDATION.

2. The Governing Body to consist of twenty Governors, ten Representative, ten Co-optative.

3. The Town Council to appoint eight, and the School Board two, of the Representative Governors, whose term lasts five years.

4. Co-optative Governors appointed for eight years, vacancies being filled by the general body.

8. Governors to meet at least twice a year.

12. The Chairman or any two Governors may summon a special meeting ; and the Clerk must notify to all by notice, specifying the object.

17. Lands of the Foundation hereafter vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands.

22. Nothing in the scheme to prejudice the interests legally vested in Mr. Thos. Ainsworth, the head-master at the time.

THE SCHOOL AND ITS MANAGEMENT.

24. The Governors to provide, as soon as possible, upon some convenient site in or near the borough of Blackburn, proper School Buildings suitable for not less than two hundred

and fifty scholars, and planned with a view to convenient extension.

25. Masters not required to be in Holy Orders.

26. Head-master to be a Graduate of a university in the United Kingdom. Every future Head-master to be appointed by the Governors at a meeting specially called for the purpose, the vacancy first being publicly advertised.

27, 28. The Governors are empowered to dismiss, without assigning reasons, the Head-master, on six months' notice, or summarily for urgent cause.

29. Every future Head-master to make declaration to discharge his duties ; acquiesce in dismissal, and thereupon relinquish all claims and give up property of the School.

34. The Governors have jurisdiction over all School arrangements within the limits fixed by the scheme.

36. The Head-master has control over the details of working the school.

37. The Head-master has the sole power of appointing or dismissing his Assistants.

50. " There shall be once in every year an examination of the scholars by an examiner or examiners appointed by the Governors, and paid by them, but otherwise unconnected with the school." The examiners shall report to the Governors, who shall communicate the report to the Head-master.

51. The Head-master to submit an Annual Report.

52. Provision made for scholarships tenable at the school, granting total or partial exemption from fees, as the result of merit or examination.

53. Provision made for exhibition tenable at any place of higher education, for boys of two years' standing.

57, 58. Application of Income ; providing for annual repairs and a Master's Superannuation Fund.

GENERAL.

61. Questions as to validity of proceedings under this scheme to be determined by the Charity Commissioners.

62. The opinion or advice of the Commissioners to be binding on all Governors thereby affected.

63. "The Corporation of the Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth in Blackburn," to be dissolved as soon as arrangements were complete for putting into effect this scheme.

68. Every Governor, Master, and Assistant-master, to be provided with a copy of the scheme, and copies to be sold to all applicants.



APPENDIX B.—THE OLDE BOOKE.

"What's to do?

Shall we go see the reliques of this 'town'?"

—"Twelfth Night."

[The first Minute Book contains an entry of Sept. xxvii, 1594, wherein there is stated to have been put into a black box amongst other school writings "An olde booke of orders notes charges and paym'tes in paper towching the said school." The following are transcriptions of the only surviving fragments of this volume—a series of loose but consecutive leaves, carefully preserved but much time-worn.]

THE earliest date therein is the xth day of September, 1586, and the extract relates to the investment of the school stock by private loan.

Words enclosed within brackets are added in the MS. by a caret, and these in italics are dubious renderings. The penmanship is hurried but fairly legible.

"2. Md. that the xth daye of September 1586 it was agreed by the governours of the free scole of Blackburne that whosoever shall have the use of the some of xx £ of money p'cell of the freeh'd of the sayde schole in lone shall paye after the rate of xls. for the lone of the same in one yeare and enter into bonde by oblygation (to governours) in the some of xl £ with two suffycient surrity given for the repayment of the same (at the yeare's ende) and that eatch of his sayd surties shalbe Inhabyters and householders w'tn the sayd prishe and being eytche freeholders of xls. by years or *other wyse* worth xl £ in goods, and that for every xx £ *lent* for the there shalbe a severall oblygation mayde in form as is afore-sayde, and that *everye* such oblygation shalbe renewed *as* such by the suertyes at the end of everye yeare, and the sayde p'ties to gyve ——— of a yeare's warninge to the governors *wether* he will repaye the sayd xx £ stocke backe

agayne that there may be no tyme lost, otherwyse to renewe his bonde and to *be* charged with lone of it for another year and yf he will not renewe his (sayde) bonde then the former bonde to be put in sute and advantage thereof to be taken and imployed to the use of the *sayde* schole."

Appended are thirteen signatures, including those of Edward Welshe, the Vicar, Sir Gilbert Gerrard, John Radclyff (Knight), and the bold hand of Thomas Walmysley (who evidently succeeded Radclyff as chairman in the following year).

The next sheet is an entry of probably the same day, certainly of 1586. It is headed "The names of the governours of the ffree Schole of Queen Elizabeth in Blackburne, Ano. Regn. Reg. 28——" The list has evidently been twice or more amended. There is a footnote added in 1591, and many of the names have been erased in the same ink and their successors inserted in a small and often hopelessly illegible hand. There are other additions—as the four last names—in a fainter ink. The names erased in '91 are printed in italics, and the notes added, where transcription is possible, in brackets. There are but few left of the governors appointed by the charter of '67; to their names is appended an asterisk.

*Gylberte gerrarde, Knyght, mr. of the Rolles. *John Sutheworthe, Knyghte. **Thomas heskythe*, Knyght (mort. Robert Heskyth—1588). *John Radeclyffe*, Knyghte. *Thomas Walmsley, S'geant at lawe. Richarde Shuttleworthe, S'geant at lawe. *Edwarde osbaldstone*, Esquyer. (Joe osbols). *Thomas Langton, Esquyer. Thomas Talbott, Esqr. Thomas hol-lerisste (?), Esq. Rauffe Barton, Esquyre. *Wm. Haryngton, Esqre. *John Talbott*, Esqe. Edward Braddyll, Esqre. *John Grymshaye*, Esque. (mortuus est). Edward Wellche, Vycarri ibi. Thomas Aynsworthe, gent. *Richarde Lyveseye*, gent. (mortuus). Thomas Astley, gent. Richarde Parker, gent. (m). George Talbott, gent. *Alexander osboldyston, gent. Robert Morley, gent. Rye Wallmysley, gent. **Willm Barker*, gent. *Wm. dewhurst*, gent. (Hugh dyco-so— of Tockholes, the xiith of Septbr). *Nicholas Bolton*, gent. (Jeo Cowburne

of Ediholes, the xiith of Septr., 1590). Thomas Gelebrande, gent. (*Lawrence Ainsworth, Sept. 1588). **Richarde Cunlyffe, gent. Rycharde Wytalghe, gent. John Warde, gent.* (Wm. — 1588). *James Garstange, gent. (Wm. bolton, of — 1588). *Henrye Marsden, gent.* Wm. Crosse, gent. Lawrence haworthe, gent. Lawrence duckesberye, gent. *Willm Page of London, gent. (George Lyvesaye).* Rycharde page, gent. Roger Smally, gent. **Thurston Maudesley, gent.* (mort). John Clayton, gent. *Xtoph. Marsden, gent.* de ffenyscoles (mortuus). **John Cowburne, gent.* (mort). (Edward Maud —). John gelebrande (— 1590). Myles Aspinoll. Nicholas haworth. (*Richard Lowe* —). *Thomas Whytalghe.* John hodgeson. George Ashton. *Adame Bolton de Broke howse. Roger — esquier. Lawrence Aspinall. John Baron (of the —). Myles Marsden.

The third document is an extraordinary production. Hastily written, in a crooked and excruciating hand that is consistent only in its inconsistency, it presents, even after prolonged and careful scrutiny, little more than an appalling series of hieroglyphs. It is fortunate that the subject is not very exciting; otherwise attempts to "fill up the blanks" might result in disaster. It is headed "xvii of September, Ao. xxxviii regine (Eliz)," and is of a business import, date 1586.

"It is agreed by the governe's of the ffree gram. schoole of quene Elizabeth in blackburne, that the some of ffourt— pounds, p'cell of the money.....for the bying of..... in the..... of blackburne shall be payd to Mr. Banastr of.....and.....to pay the four (sum?) abov upon theof.....and..... George Rysheton....." (!)

The next two sheets contain very short notes of about half a dozen lines, and those on one side only; the space thus left was subsequently used to enter some most interesting mintes. In order to preserve chronological sequence the short extracts are given first.

"iiijth daie of Mch (?) Anno regni regnia Elizabeth —"
(Probably 1587).

“George Bolton deceased (?) dyd gyve to the Stock of the Schole at Blackburne wih was — to Maystr Walsh vicare ot blackburne V.S.”

“George yht of yht banke heth gyven by hys will to the stocke of the schole and july mad, Henry Romsbothom, George Allen, kauffe.” VIIs viijd.

“Md. that theare shall be bonde for payment of fifte poune remaynng in the garde of James Lyvesey, rem'nt of Edward Walmsley wch L[£] is to be payed by mr. Lyvesey this yere (?) of 1588, with v[£] moneys.”

The extremely bad penmanship of the three minutes last quoted gives place now to a very small and artistically illegible hand.

Turning back one page, there is found under the date of viijth of April, 1588, the following most interesting record.

“Md. that the daie and yere last abov mensioned hit was agreed by the governors of the free scholle of Queen Elizabeth in blackborne that if the proffits of the stock of the sayd schoole b'g cxvii[£] or thereabouts together with the yerly pfts allowed by her mtie will not retch (?) to make a yerly pft of xxiiii[£] yerly to be bestowed upon the scholle'r and ushir, viz., xx[£] for the —r and iii[£] for the ushir, that the all sutch scollars as shall come to the said scole shall paie towards the mak'g uppe of the said sm of xxiiii[£] after the rate of ijs for every — (big boy) and ijs for every petty (small boy). . . . And if it willnot (m)'ke the p'ft of the said stock and yerly pfts so as to (m)'ke up the sayd sum of xxiiii[£], that the governo's of the said scole shall equally — the sum that so shallbe wanting to (m)'ke uppe the said sum of xxiiii[£] if the said wadges so to be paie'd by the said scollers doe amount to (m)'ke uppe the pffts of the said stock and yerly to a — gretter sum than xiiii[£] then the said scole wadges to be seased (?) by pour scollers that went (?) to the said scole to be forbor — [xx] — to a less sum in respecte of theyre poverty.

“Md. the wadges of the scollem—r and ushir to be yerly

paied at ij feastes, viz., the ——— and that the said —r and ushir for the tyme beyng shal not recv. to the sayd scolle or ther tette any childre onless he be presented and brought to the sayd scolle by iij of the governors of the sayd scolle at the leaste, to the end that those said governors th't so shall p'nt the said childre shall undertake to assure sutch wadges as is or shalbe due by e'y such scoller by these p'ntes."

Appended are the signatures of twenty-one governors.

In addition to the casual interest accruing to the foregoing, in the way of the salaries of the master and usher, the date of the latter office is further removed than has hitherto been substantiated, whilst there is also patent the origin of payment for tuition—a necessary divergence from the strict letter of the charter.

The next entry, numbered "5" in the MS., is dated :

"The Laste of Novr. 2588, An. Reg. Eliz. xxx, o.," and is a sort of extension of the second clause above.

"Md. that the daye and yere above mensyond hit was agreed by the governo's of the free scole of Quene Eliz. in blackebone that Mr. Yates, the sco——r of the said scole shalnot at any ty(me) hereafter rec into his scolle as scollers there to be taught, but only sutche as shalbe presnted unto the scolr. there for the ty(m)e be'g by ij of the governors of the said scolle at the leaste, ovir theym ho——e wryting and the said governo's that so shall p'sent the sayd scoller shall answer the — yers wadges for the sayd scollir if he be onle p'sented, alth' yt the sayd scollir shalbe afterwards by his poverty or family withdrawn fro' the sayd scolle and plased at (his home or other home?), and this order to be obeyed untill s(u)tch ty(m)e as a — maye be p'vided yerly to contynue for evir to the advtge of the sd. scole.

"Md. that sutche of the prishenrs of Blackbone as doe as before in — towards the stock of the sayd scole as the governors of the sayd scolle shall lyke or shall at — childre or childres childre presented or toght in the said scole."

Appended are fourteen signatures. It is unfortunate that

the latter portion is very illegible, as it seems to be a herald of an extraordinary minute soon to be considered.

Then follows a business entry signed by six of the governors.

"6. Whereas theare is dyvse sumes of money frely bestowed and psn'ted at Blackburn towards the p'chasing of Landes or Rent for the mayntenance of the ffree gram. Scole of Quene Elizabeth in Blackburne ; by dyvse of the — of Blackborne and others ; And whereas theare is a yerely rent of x£ offed to be approv'd to the said schole for ever by good and suffycent affirmacon in Law, for twentye yeres p'chase wch. amounts to the sum of £200, and the saide benevolence will amount to the said some of £200, yt is now —. It is thought convenyent by the governors of the said schools—that the said Benevolence shalbe solled and payed at Blackburn to the garde of Mr. John Soothworth, Mr. Osbaldston, Edward Walmysley, Thomas Talbot, Esquier, and Willm. ffarington, Esquier, or to five of theym at the Least (?) uppon midday in the p'mises wed. next — at Blackburne. This xxiiird day of December, 1588."

The latter part of this transcription is rather dubious.

The next minute is that which has been described as "extraordinary." Rarely indeed is a parallel recorded of a small body of governors hurling intimidations at the whole community whose support was as necessary as it was desired. On September 12th, 1590, twenty-nine governors assembled in solemn conclave, and after the formal writing of the Letters Patent of the School in illegible Latin, adopted the following resolution :—

"The xiith Daye of September, 1590, hit was agreed by the governours of the said scolle that sutch of the habytants of the prishe of blackbone as shall not contrybute towards the purchasing of the p'mses of £20 for the maintenance of the said scolle, before Christmas next shall not at any tyme afterwards have a'y their childre or childres childre or offespring recd into the said scolle or ther tought, but to be for ever excluded and forbarred from the same."

This extract is inserted in its order in the MS., but it would seem that the following should precede it, inasmuch as it is dated, with sufficient distinctness, 1589. The result of the above appeal will be considered in due course.

The accounts here appended of donations to the school, together with others whose record seems to be lost, were some years later entered in tabular form in the first minute book of the governors.

“Money payed by way of benevolence to thuse of the ffree gramer schole of quene Elizabeth in Blackburne, the first day of September Anne xxxj regina Elizabeth, as ffolloweth.

In primis, Mr. Justice Walmysley, one of the Bench	c. MKS.
Hon. willm ffarrington, Esquier	x℥
Hon. Edward Bradill, Esquier	ii℥ vjs. viijd.
Hon. Mr. John Bradyll, son and heir apparante of the said Edward	xiijs. iiijd.
Hon. Mr. Robert Morley of Braddill	xxs.
Hon. the inhabytante of the town of Rysheton	vij℥ xixs. ijd.
Hon. the inhabytante of the towne of Mytton	xls.
Hon. George Talbot of the Carre, gent., in seval. xxs. from the sayme xxs. fr. Mytton	xls.
Hon. Mr. Rychard Walmysley of Shawley	xxs.
Hon. the ffreeholders and ten'nts of Mr. Barton, Esquier, Justice Shuttleworthe, Rauff Barton, Esquire, in Blackburne	xiiij℥ ijs.
Hon. the ffreeholders and tenants of Wm. ffarrington, Esquier of the Rectorye of Blackburne	xj℥
Hon. the Inhabytante of the towne of Little Har- wood	vj℥ ix s.
Hon. Randle Lyvesey the Archer	xs.
Hon. Lawrence Aynsworthe of Livesey	xxs.
Hon. Thomas Gelybrand of Romsgreave, gent.	xxs.
Hon. Lawrence Hayworthe of neytherderwyn	xxs.
Sum	cxxx℥ xiijs. vid.
Hon. Mr. Edward Walmysley	xxs.
Hon. Mr. Robert Walmysley	xxs.

The total of the above sum is £132 13s. 6d. The meeting

was evidently adjourned for a few days, for the minutes resume immediately, in the same hand, to record further gifts.

“Md. that the xth day of September Edward Osbaldston Esquier dyd brynge befor the governo's of the Schole of Blackburne the sum of xxx £ which he (will them have?) p'cell of his benevolence and towards the p'chasing of Landes....., the said Mr. Osbaldston dyd take his money agayn and then p'mysed that yf Lands were p'chased within 1j yerres next he would paye the said sum of xxx £ upon 1j months warninge, and that in the meane tyme the said Mr. Osbaldston of his kind (?) benevolence will give yerly during the said 1j yerres xls.”

The middle and concluding portions of this interesting minute are omitted ; the former being illegible and the latter torn away. On the next page the minutes of the same meeting resume.

“Md. that the sd xth day of Septr Mr Edward osbaldston dyd gyve of his ffree will to the schole xxs. as well as his wage — of the xls. before mens'd.”

“Md. that the daye and year aforesaid J. Soothworth, knygt dyd of his owne benevolence pay toward p'chasing of Land for the said school viij £ iijs. iiijd. to be repayed agayne at the end of 1j yerres next, if Landes be not p'chased wthn the said 1j yerres, he dyd then also — of Mr. Rch. Soothworth his sone to pay xx £ more for his — within 1j months for his — wthn 1j months after nowlege gyven that Land may be p'chased for the said School — wthn 1j yerres.”

“Md. that Thomas astley, gen., — Lyvesey and Lawrence Aynsworth are appoynted to — upon J. F. Soothworth for is — of 1j benevolence in.”

The next minute relates how one gentleman literally overstepped the bounds of generosity.

“Md. that H. Gelybrane dyd affirm that in the payment by hym made for Mr. Barton tente in blackburne he payd xxs. moor than was due by xiiij £ ijs. whereas xiiij £ ijs. only was due as appered — it fell out accordingly. And the

some of xxs. was repayd back to hym in settlement, 31 Regin."

The last entry of 1589—the exact date is not legible—seems to be a continuation of the previous list.

Thomas Holcrofte, Esquier xxs.

Thomas Talbott of Bastsal, Esquier, of his own
benevolence v℥

John Talbott of Whalley xxs.

Mr. Walsh, Vycarre of blackburne xxs.

Willm. Dewhurst of Whilpshyre xxs.

John Soothworth, Knyght, did put.—benev. accord-
ing as before is mensd vi℥ iijs. iiijd.

Of the inhabytante of the towne of neyther darwyn,
remayng some repayd iiij℥ xixs. ijd.

Gilbert Ryshton of duneshop, gent. xxs.

Nicholes Ryssheton of Antley, gent. xs.

Willm. Rysheton pn't to Mr. Justice Walmysley..... xs.

Giving a further total of £23 3s. 6d.

There follow the minutes of a very lengthy meeting.

xxxth September, Ao. 1591.—*Yate Bancke.*

Henry Romesbothome iijs. viijd.

John Baron iijs. ijd.

Robert Yate, Junior iijs. xd.

Vpor John Yate vs. —

Robert Houlden and George Houlden vs. ijd.

Robt. Yate, *scrivnr* iijs. viijd.

J. Thurston Maudesley vs. —

James hawoorthe ijs. xd.

Itm. paid by Sr. John Soothworthe fr. Mr. Ducs-
worthe (?) xls. —

Itm. paid by George Ryshton as money receyved of
my Ladye Ratcliffe and her tenante of Tockeholles v℥

Mr. Justice Walmysley haithe paid this daye
vi℥ ix. s. wch. he receyved for the — of the
assurance fr the rent of xx℥..... vi℥ ix. s. viijd.

Thomas Claiton Servant to Justice Walmysley paid
this daye xvij. s. ijd. remayninge of the some of
iiij℥ xs. wch. he receyved towards the charges

of the fyne and recoverie and other assurance.
 Soe as the charges of all the assurance and of
 a Scole Boxe and a paper booke amounteth but
 to the some of $\text{iiij}\text{£}$ ijs. viiijd. xviijs. ijd.

This "paper booke" is presumably the first minute book, and the box that which is now dignified—and it is worthy—by the title of "school chest."

"Mde the same daye the said Mr. Justice Walmsley and Thomas Claiton remayne discharged of all somes of money receyved by theym at any tym heretofore towards the use of the said Schole.

"Md that the daye aforesaid the said some of $\text{xx}\text{£}$ wthn menconed to be paied was deliv'ed to Willm. Boulton, of Bauckehey, to be delivered over to the usher for the tyme beinge; he the said Usher for the tyme beinge enteringe bonde wthe. twoe sufficient suerties wth hym for the repayment of the said some of $\text{xx}\text{£}$ wthn one month after his decease or the tyme of his departure or displacinge from the said Schoole.

"Mde the said some was so delyvered upon this intent and condicon wth. the advise and assent of Mr. Justice Walmsley and Sr. John Sootheworthe and diverse others the governors of the same schoole.

"Me. also that the fyne and recoverie Inrolled for the same schoole and the Indenture of bargayne and Sale of the rente to the Governors and also the Comon Seale fr the same schoole and a boxe w'n they weare (wherein they were) conteyned, was the daye aforesaid deliv'd to Oliver Lyvesey, to be kepte for the use of the same Schoole.

(He seems to have done the "keeping" part very well).

"Also it is ordered that all forren Schollers and not of the parrishe, nor fr. whom anyee contribucon hath byn towarde the benefit of the same Schoole, shall paye at the tyme of their entrance to be broughte as scollers in the same Schoole viiid. a Quarter, and the same to be paied to the Mr. the firste daye of everie Quarter, soe as the schollers may

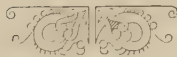
answaire the same to the Usshar or otherwise as the Governors shall think meete. Ande if anye refuse to make suche payment then hee not to be admytted, or if hee be alreadye (or shalbe) admytted and refuse them to be expelled.

“ Itm. it is ordered that from henceforthe there shalbe no butcharinge or killinge of flesshe wthn the same schoole.

“ Itm. that no English Interludes or playes shalbe from henceforth playede or used in the same Schoole.

“ Itm. that no extraordinarie playe dayes to be graunted for Schollers of the same schoole.”

Nine Governors, of whom Th. Walmysley was president, appended their names to these minutes—the last recorded in the Olde Booke and still extant.



APPENDIX C.—WRITINGS OF THE FIRST
MINUTE BOOK.

I.—THE TRIAL OF 1585-6.

“ In Law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,
But, being season'd with a gracious voice,
Obscures the show of evil.”
—“ The Merchant of Venice.”

[ENDORSED 10 FEB., 1585-6.]

THE case touching the Free School of Blackburne, in Lancashire, with the objections answered. — The Queen's Ma'stie hath incorporated a ffree Grammar Schole in Blackburne in Lancaster, called the ffree Grammar Schole of Queene Elizabethe in Blackburne, and that they may purchase landes not exceeding a certaine vawew. Before this corp'acon there was a Scole ther' not incorp'ate, and certain ffeoffees were seased of coppeholde landes p'cell of the Quenes Mannor to them and their heires, to th' intente to fynd a Schole Master w'ch should be the preyst and maynteyne the Quyeres and saye masses and dirigies for the sowles of the founders. fforasmuch as Coppyholde landes w'ch were in the handes of others then the Chauntry Preysts are excepted out the Statute of Chauntries; these landes were not taken from the ffeoffees by the statute, but theye by warrante from Kings Phyllypp and Quene Marie surrendered the same in 1 and 2 Phil and Marie to certain newe ffeoffees and their heires to th' yntente to fynde a scholemaster at Blackburne and to th' use of a Schole to be kepte at Black-

burne. According to this warrante, the new ffeoffees were admitted to the use of the said Schole. The newe ffeoffees of coppingholde landes p'cell of the Quenes Mannor, have prayed that they may have and enjoye the copieholde landes to the use of the Schole, as by lawe they oughte in righte to have the said landes. It ys objected by Mr. Attorney of the Duchie that however the righte of the ffeoffees be, yet they may not have the landes, because they and diverse other copieholde landes in Lancaster wer solde in 4to Ed. VI. by surrender in the Coppeholde Courte. And yf the ffeoffees should have those lands, other ffeoffees would by lyke petycion take away all the other copieholde landes which were solde, and hinder the Queenes Ma'stie.

To this firste parte it is answered, that her Ma'stes pleasure ys (as they thinke) that her subjects for her owne schole shoulde of her owne laws have justiciam and rectum, being claimed by them as their inheritance and allowed by her Ma'ste and all her noble progenytors. Secondlye, the generall myschieffe of the other cases (alleged) doth not extende to this case, because in this case there was a good use for a free gramer Schole, wh'ch was mente to be mayntayned by the Statute of Chauntries, and not overthrowne, aud in the other cases there be noe Scholes to be considered. And in this case there ys a new admittance of new ffeoffees, and to the use of a Gramer Schole, and a decree accordinglye for the Schole, w'ch is not in other cases.

The Quenes Ma'stie shall have the olde rents of the ffeoffees of the schole yearlie paide, and so noe loss to her Ma'stie, and for the ffyne due to her Ma'stie upon surrenders or upon deathe, yt is but a yere's rent, and the ffeoffees did lett yt by surrender to the tenantes, who paide ffynes and most part of all the copieholders landes there are usuallie put in ffeoffees handes, and order hath been taken that notwithstandinge the Lorde shall be answered of her ffyne, w'ch order the feoffees will performe. And these feoffees for the Schole are allreadie by special warrante of King

Phillippe and Queene Mary admitted and allowed, and so that exception is not to be objected again to these ffeoffees.
—*Lansdowne MSS.*

THE DECREE.

“Thyself shall see the act :
For, as thou urgest justice, be assur’d
Thou shalt have justice, more than thou desir’st.”
— “The Merchant of Venice.”

[From the pen of Ralph Eltoftes in the early portion of the Book. A side note says : “Memorand yt (that) ye originall decree under ye Dutchy-seal in this 30th day of November, 1690 (and for many years by past hath been) in ye keeping of ye Lds of Dunkenhalgh.”]

Elizabeth dei gra. Anglie ffraunce et Hib’nie Regina fidei defensor Omnibus ad quos p’ntes lre nre p’renerint saltm. Inter Ricm. Livesey et al’ Inhabitant. de Blackeburne quer’ et Nichol’ Halsted defend.

Whereas matter of variance is dependinge in this honourable Courte between the said p’ties for and concernynge the right interest and title in and to certen mesuages landes ten’tes and hereditamentes with the appendenances sett lyinge and being in Burnley, Padihame and Blackbourne in the countie of Lancaster and in Sladburne in the countie of Yorke beinge copieholde lands and ten’tes holden of her Ma’tie accordinge to the customes of the mannors of Ightenhill and Sladburne and the Wapentage of Clitherowe p’cell of the possessions of the duchie of Lancaster claymed by the said compl’ts to be given and assured in the fifte year of the Reigne of the late Kinge Henry the eight to and for the mayntenn’ce of a ffree gramer schole in the towne of Blackburne aforesayd, and alleged by Defend’ts to have bene given and assured ffor the mayntenance of a Chauntrye in the church of Blackburne aforesayd, wch sayd cause hath beene at severall daies in this p’nte terme of St. Michaell herde and debated in open Courte beffore the Chauncell’r and Councell of this Courte by by the Counsell Lerned of both the sayd p’ties and now this p’nte ffridaie beinge the xxvith of November abovesayd the

sayd cause hath eftsones beene herd and debated beffore the said Chauncell'r Sr Gilbert Gerrard, Knyght, Mr of the Rowles, John Clinch one of the Justices of her highnes' Benche, Willm fleetwode, Sergeant at Lawe, John Brograve esquier, attourney general of this Courte and by them fullie understoode and considered of; and fforasmuch as upon the hearinge therof it appeared as well by an Indenture dated the third daie of Aprill in the fiftie yere of the raign of the said late Kinge Henrie the eight showed ffourth by the said complts as also by a decree made in this courte in the terms of St. Hillarye in the seconde yere of the queenes Ma'tie that now is yt. the sayd landes &c. were given especiallie and principallie to the use and mainten'nce of a chauntrie priest to singe and saie mass and other sup'stitious service in the chappell of our ladie in the church of Blackburne afforesaid w'ch chauntrie priest should teache a gramer schole and a songe scole if suche a one cold be hadd, and if not then a songe scole, and for that the said p'misses are and at the tyme of ihe dissolucon of Chauntries were copieholde landes holden of her Majestie and her progenitors according to the customes of the said mannors of Ightenhill and Sladburne and the Wapentage of Clitherowe.

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[The part here omitted gives a complete history of the Foundation during its first fifty years, with an account of the complications that accrued in the matter of its endowment-lands.—Vid. Cap. III.]

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And for asmuche as the dismissal made in this Courte in the fourth and fift yeres of the late King Phillippe and Quene Marie shewed by the compl'tes seemed to be obtained upon a surmise that the said p'mises were geven onelic or cheeflie for the use of the said free scole w'ch appeareth otherwise by the said Indenture. It Ys therefore this 26th

daie of November in the eight and twentieth yere of the reign of our sov'eigne ladie Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of England, ffraunce &c., ordered and decreed by the Chauncellor and Councell of this Courte that the said defend'tes and other copie-holders having estates from the said purchasers and their heires and assignes w'thin the said mannors and wapentage of Ightenhill, Sladburne, Cliderowe and Blackburne, shall from henceforth for ever sev'allie have holde occupie and enjoye the said sev'all landes ten'tes and other the p'mises w'th appurten'ces by them sev'allie claymed w'thout lett troble sute vexacon, eviccon, disturbance, denyall or intercepcon of the said compl'tes and inhabitantes of Blackburne aforesaide or any of them or any of their heires assignes or of any other p'son or p'sons havinge or clayminge any estate or title in or to the said p'mses or any p'te thereof by from or under the said compl'tes, and inhabitantes their heires, &c., or by theire or any of theire assente consente or procurement or by from or to the use of the said Scole of Blackburne in any wise. And it is further ordered and decreed by the said Chauncellor and Councell of this Courte that the said Richard Lyvesay, one the said compl'tes and other such p'sons as have or clayme to have any estate or interest in or to the said p'mises or any of them by force of a surrender in the tyme of the late King Phillippe of Quene Marie by reason of a warrant from the late Kinge and Quene or otherwise to or for the maynten'nce of the said Scole shall after the feast of Saint Michell th'archangell next and before the feast of the birthe of our Lord God next ensuinge in open Courtes of the said sev'all mannors and wapentage lawfullie and accordinge to the sev'all customes thereof at the coste and charge in the lawe of the said defen'tes surrender, release and extinguishe all their and every of their estate and estates right title interest and demannde of in and to the said Mess'es landes ten'tes to the said nowe copieholders thereof and to their sev'all heires and assignes. And that the said compl'tes their heires or

assignes shall also before the said ffeast deliver or cause to be deliv'ed to the said Nicholas Halsted one of the said def'tes all the copies of courte rowles w'ch they have for the maynten'ce of the said p'tended title for the use of the said Scole so as the said nowe Copieholders maye from hereafter quietlie have and enjoye the said p'msses without any further troble sute or vexacon. And in consideracon of and forasmuche as it appeared by the said Indenture that the said Chauntrie preist sholde be sufficiencly lerned in grammer If any such could be gotten that shoulde kepe continuallie a free grammer scole whereby it semeth that the fundes of the said chauntrie had some respecte to the said scole, and for asmuche also as the said late Kinge Edwarde the VI. after the dissolucon of chauntries did directe his commission unto Sr Walter Mildemay Knight and Rob'te Kellewaye Esquier and others authorisinge them (amongst other thinges) to appointe what scoles within the said countie of Lancaster were necessary to be mayntained and kept and to lymit and appointe what stipend should be allowed to the same, by force whereof the said Commission'rs thought it convenient that the said ffree scole of Blackburne shoulde be contynewed and appointed the some of ffoure poundes seaven shillings and fower pence for and towards the stipend thereof as by the certificate of the said comission remayninge of recorde in this Courte appeareth, w'ch said stipend hathe not bene before this tyme demanded or paide, And for that the right honourable Sr. Willm Cicill Knight Lorde Burleighe and Lorde Treasurer of England and some other of her Ma'stes most honourable privie Councell have directed their Pres in favour of the maynten'ce and contynuance of a free Gramer Scole there. It ys therefore ordered and decreed by the said Chauncellor with the full consente of the said Sr Gilberte Gerrarde Knight, John Clinche, Willm. ffeetwoode and the reste of the Councell of this Courte, that the said some of 4li. 7s. 4d. shalbe from henceforthe yerlie allowed and paid by her Ma'tie her heires and successors out of the Revenewes

of the said duchie of Lancaster by the Receivour of the same county of Lancaster for the time beinge in or at her Ma'tes Castell of Cletherowe in the said Countie of Lancaster, att and upon the first daye of Maye accordinge to the direction and appointment in effecte of Sr Walter Myldmay, Knight, and Rob't Relleways by vertue of the comission to them directed as aforesaid to and for the better maynten'nce of the said ffree Grammar-Scole in Blackburne aforesaid w'ch is now incorporated by her Ma'tie and commonly called her Ma'ties ffree scoles. And this decreē shalbe a sufficiente warrante to the receivour for the tyme being to make paiement thereof and the Auditor in those p'tes to give allowance for the same. And it is thought good by the said Chauncellor, Sr Gilbert Gerrard, Knight, John Clinche, Wm ffeetewoode and to the Councell of this Courte that in respecte of the arrerages of the said some or stipend allowed by the said Commissioners as is aforesaid w'ch amounteth to the the some of 131li. 15s. 8d. or thereaboutes and w'ch hath not bene heretofore required or paied as is foresaid that ther be allowed out of the Revenewes of the said duchie the some of Threescore Poundes to be paied into the handes of Sr. Gilberte Gerrard one of the Gov'nors of the said scole before the feaste of the Nativitie of St. John Baptist next cominge to the use of the said scole in Blackburne aforesaid. And that every of the p'chasors and p'prietors of the said landes shall alsoe paie towards the said arrerages for every acre of the said copieholde landes to be measured accordinge to the sev'all customes of the said Mannors where the said landes doe lye tenn shillings or else the some of ffftie and fyve poundes of lawfull mony of Englande at the choise and election of the nowe copieholders at the great Courte to be holden at the sev'all mannors after the saide ffeast of St. Michael th'archangell next and before the said Birthe of our Lorde God next followinge to be imployed and bestowed by and w'th the good and grave advice of the said Sr. Gilbt. Gerrarde, Knight, for the better maynten'nce of the said

free grammer Scoole to have contynuaunce for ever. Provided alwaies that non of the p'sons that are nowe in possession of any p'ten or p'cell of the p'mises shalbe displaced or removed from his possession duringe the naturall lief of the now possessor or occupier w'thout the privitie or consent of the Chauncellor or Councell of the duchie of Lancaster for the tyme being. Nos antem tenor decret sive record pred ad instancia pred Nicholam Halsted et als and duximus exemplificand p p'ntes in EUIUS REI TESTIMONIUM has l'ras fieri fecimus patentes Dat apud p'lac'm n'r'm Westm. sub sigillo ducat n'ri Lancaster pred vicessimo secundo die ffebruarii anno regni n'ri vicessimo octavo.

"THE LAW'S DELAY."

Report of the Attorney General of the Duchy, John Brogreve,
Feb. 22nd, 1586.

The Estate of the Copiholde Landes claymed by the ffeoffees for the mayntenance of the Scole of Blackburne.—It is trewe that her Ma'tie hath incorporated a free Grammer Scole in Blackburne with lycence to purchase landes to a certen valew and hath appointed the now Mr. of the Rowles to be one of the Governors thereof. And longe before the incorporation of the saide Scole c'ten ffeoffees were ceased of copiholde landes of her Ma'ties Mannor to th' intent to maynteyne a chaunterie preist in the Churche of Blackburne, w'ch preist should teach a Grammer Scole and a Songe Scole (if such a one could be had), if not, then a Songe Scole, and should saye Masse and diriges for the soule of the founder of the said Chaunterie in the said Churche. So as the landes were given for the mayntenance of a Chaunterie Preist, w'ch preist should be qualified as aforesaid, if such a one could be gotten, and not otherwise given for the mayntenance of a manner but he was tied and bound to do some Godlie and lawfull thinge. By the Statute made in primo Ed. VI. all Chaunteres were dissolved and the said Kinge in the fourth

year of his raigne did by his Comysson commande that all such copiholde landes holden of his highnes should be plased unto his hande, blayminge his officers w'ch had suffered the copiholde landes of his Mannor to surrendered to such uses and such corporacions, whereby he was prejudiced in his fynes and inheritance, and after seasure made to grante them out again to Sr. Edwarde Warner, Kt, Henrie Saville, James Gardyner, for reasonable fynes, reservinge the aunciente rente, wheruppon seasure was made and the same graunted for tenne yeres fyne; which Copiholde landes amounted to the valew of fyve hundreth poundes a yere and above, and is now dispersed amongst almost a thousand persons, who have bene at charge in purchasing of them and in buildinge uppon them. There be sev'all decrees made in the Duchie that the nowe copiholders should enjoye the saide copiholde landes, as they have done sithence the saide seisure made by the saide King Edwarde and the graunt made as aforesaide.

The laste terme, by meane of y'r Lo. letters and some other of her Ma'tys most hon'able Privie Counsell, Mr. Chancellor of the Duchie, Sir Gilb'te Gerrard, Knighte, John Clynche, one of her Ma'ties Justice of the Assisses within the Countie of Lancaster, where the said landes does lie, Willm. ffetwoode, Sergyant at Lawe, and the rest of the Counsell of the said Duchie, assembled themselves, to the end the same schole might be in reasonable manner maynteyned, and that her Ma'ties dere brother's grant should not be called in question, noe such a number of people molested touchinge ther habitacon (upon) copiholde landes by them p'chased as aforesaid; noe yet her Matie thought in honour bounde to restore so great a some, being levied by reason of the seasure and grauntinge of the said copiholde landes beinge fower thousande poundes or therabouts; noe yet fermor decrees touchinge the said landes re-examyned; did order and decree that ther should yerelie be paid towards the mayntenance of the saide schole the yearlie rent of £4 7s. 4d., allowed us afforesaid, and that the sum of £100 or thereabouts should

be paid and delivered to the Mr. of the Rowles to be employed in the purchasing of landes to the use of the saide scole for the better mayntenance thereof.

II.—LEGAL PAPERS OR EVIDENCES (1591) OF THE FOUNDATION.

Evidence concerning the Schoole of Blackeburne.

1. Inprimis a Lycence of Mortmayne from the Queene, being the foundation of the same scole.

2. Itm. a decree of the Courte of the Duchie Towchinge the ancient lande of the scoole of Blackburne.

3. Itm. a l'tre of attorney mad by the govners of the scole of Blakburne to Tho. Clayton.

4. Itm. one Indenture of covenente for thassuringe of the yearlye rente of twentie pounce to be issuyng oute of the Capitall Messuage or mason howse called ffarnehill peelee in the Countye of yorke; and all lande known by the name of the demaynes of ffarnehill or by anye other name then in the occupacion of Edmunde Eltofte Esquire or his assignes in ffarnhill aforesaide in the Countye of Yorke for ever made betwene the same Edmunde on thone partie, and the Governors of the same Schoole, Sr. John Soothworthe, knight, Thomas Talbot, John Osboldston, and Willm. ffarrington Esquires, Edward Walmysley, and Robert Walmysley, gen, on thother partie bearinge date the laste daye of September in the twoe and thirtithe yeare of the Reigne of the Quenes Ma'tie that now is.

5. Itm. one obligacon bearinge date the said laste of September in the twoe and thirtithe yeare of her ma'tes said Reigne maide by the said Edmund Eltofte and Thomas Eltofte sonne and heir apparent of the same Edmunde to the said Governors wherein the same Edmunde and Thomas

stande bonde in the some of seven hunderethe ponde w'the condicon for pformance of the covenante in the same Indenture conteyned.

6. Itm. one part of a Cyrographe of a fyne seryed Ao. dce. due. Regine xxxij betwene Edward Walmysley and Robert Walmysley pt and the same Edmund Eltofte, Thomas Eltofte, sonne and heire apparent of the same Edmund, Sr. John Soothworthe, knighte, Thomas Talbot, Esquire, John Osboldston, Esquier, and Willm. ffarington, Esquire, deforciante of tenn messuages tenn Gardaynes fourtie acres of land, a hunderethe acres of meadowe, fyve hunderethe acres of pasture and fourtie acres of wood wth. thappurtnance in ffarnehill, withe a Render.

7. Itm. the copie of dyv's office of Mr. Eltofte Lands.

8 Itm. the copie of an ancient piece of evidence of Mr. Eltofte Lands of a yearly rente of twentie pounds whe a clause of distresse for the same, and a now (? new) penc Issuinge out of the same lande to the said Sr. John, Thomas, John, and Willm, and the heire of the said Sr. John.

9. Itm. a Recoverie termino hillarii Anno 33 Eliz by Willm. Rissheton and Thomas Claiton demandante against Edwarde Walmysley and Robert Walmysley tenantes of tenn messuages tenn gardeyns, fourtie acres of lande w'the thappurtnces in ffarnehill wth double coucher exemplyfied under the Seale of this Courte of the benche at Westminster w'che was hadd to cutt off the fformer estate tayle of the same lands.

10. Itm. the Quenes Itres patents of the ffoundacion of the said Scoole.

“Md that the evidences above specified were delivered the xjth of April in the xxxijth of our sovereigne ladye Quene Elizabeth by Mr. Justice Walmysley to the use of the Governors, and put in a long boxe, which Boxe is now Remaining in a great cheste in the Church of Blackburn.”

Appended to this minute are the signatures of fourteen governors.

III.—SCHOOL DOCUMENTS.

Then follows a list, dated 1594, of the old documents and MSS. of the School.

1. "Itm. there is an exemplification under the seale of the Common plase of a ffyne levyed by Edward Eltofte, esquire, Thomas Eltofte, his sonne and heir apparente and others wch ffyne is before mencioned and a Recoe'yr also before mencioned.

2. "Itm. an Indenture of Bargaine and sale made by Sr. John Sowthworth knight, Jhn. Osbaldeston, Thomas Talbott, and Wilim. ffarington esquire unto the governors of the said Scoole of a Rent charge of xx^l Dated the second of Aprill, Ao. xxxiiijo Eliz. And enrolled in the Comon plase Termino Pas'he Ao. xxxij Eliz, Rotulo xij.

3. "Itm. one obligacon between the said p'ties (&c.)

4. "Itm. one obligacon made by Willm Bolton and others to the said Governors for the paym't of xx^l in money alredie to hym and others deliv'd to the use of the usher.

5. "Itm. an Indenture of ffeoffament of lands in Lyvesaie, &c.

6. "Itm. an old pchm't conteinnge the ffirst ffoundacion unsealed and a copie also of the same in pap.

7. "Itm. the copies of a Bill Answear Replicacion and Rejoynder towching the said Scoole.

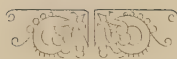
8. "A Copie of an Order taken in the Duchie Termino Michalis Ao. xxvij et xxviiijo Eliz Regni towching the said Scoole.

10. "Itm. an Olde Booke of orders notes charge and paymts in pap. towching the said scoole.

11. "Itm. the comon seale of the said scoole."

"Md that the evidence and writinge last before menciond weare putt in a blacke square boxe to the use of the said Scoole, and kept in the said school, the xxvijth of September, 1594, et Anno Reg. Eliz. xxxvj o. in the psence of Thomas Walmysley, Wm. ffarington, Thomas Astley, Edward Welshe" and six others.

It is of interest to observe that many of the documents mentioned above have been able to be here reproduced ; whilst the records of the “ olde booke ” of No. 10 have been transcribed from the original papers.



APPENDIX D.—STATISTICS.

I.—LIST OF MASTERS, 1514—1895.

- 1514, Sir Edmund Bolton, —
1535, Thomas Burgess, —
1582, Mr. Yates, Died 1592.
1592, Barnarde Smythe, D 1597.
1608, August 1st, Edward Browne, D 1612.
1612, September 29th, Thurstan Collinson, D 1623.
1623, December 21st, John Hargreaves, M.A., — 1624.
1625, January 8th, Richard Halstead, M.A., D 1640.
1641, August 9th, John Swinlehurst, D 1655.
1656, January 19th, Charles Sagar, Resigned 1666.
1666, December 21st, Mr. Sherburne, —
1667, October 7th, Thomas Wyld, —
1668, March 9th, Oliver Halliwell, —
1669, — Charles Sagar, Temporarily.
1670, — Mr. Oddy, D 1703.
1704, July 3rd, Robert ffoster, B.A., D 1705.
1705, August 20th, George Smith, B.A., R 1731.
1731, June 23rd, Rev. Thomas Holme, D.D., R 1736.
1736, November 1st, Daniel Markland, B.A., D 1737.
1737, August 2nd, Rev. Thomas Hunter, R 1750.
1760, August 29th, Rev. Robert Smith, B.A., R 1755.
1765, September 6th, Richard Guest, D 1769.
1769, August 28th, Rev. John Wilson, M.A., R 1786.
1787, January 5th, Rev. Samuel Dean, R 1792.
1792, August 17th, Thomas Jackson, D 1803.
1803, June 30th, James Holme, R 1807.

1808, September 26th, William Boardman, R 1819.

1819, December 23rd, Thomas Atkinson, R 1845.

STAFF.

Mr. Webster.

Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Snape.

Mr. John Garstang.

Rev. William Ellison, M.A.

Mr. Percy Heavyside.

Mr. Hargreaves.

Mr. Bayman.

1845, December 18th, Rev. John Bidgood Bennett, M.A.,
R 1855.

1855, November 22nd, Thomas Ainsworth, M.A., R 1894.

STAFF.

George Ainsworth, B.A.

T. J. Sycklemoore, B.A.

Rev. Richard Robinson.

M. Walter, B.A.

Dr. Wolff.

Rev. A. B. Eddleston, B.A.

F. Schnackenberg.

W. A. Haworth, B.A.

Mr. Blackburn.

M. Merchier, B.A.

James Briggs.

A. Storr, B.A.

Mr. Howard.

R. H. Birtwell, B.A.

1894, February 17th, Frank Allcroft, M.A. (Cantab.), B.Sc.
(Lond.)

STAFF.

W. Barry, B.A. (Lond.)

J. E. M. Carroll, B.A. (Cantab.)

E. B. Carter, B.A. (Cantab.)

L. Browne, B.A. (Oxon.)

H. R. Beasley, F.R.A.S.

H. S. Edwards.

G. Fowler, M.A.

J. F. Spurgeon, B.A.

J. Hurst-Hayes, B.A.

T. G. Biggs, B.A.

II.—LIST OF USHERS, 1597—1819.

1597, December, Richard Risheton, 1613.

1613, December, Robert Osbaldeston, B.A., 1616.

1619, October, Richard Bradeley, 1642.

1642, April, Richard Morres, 1660.

1661, January, Thomas Walmesley, 1666.

1666, December, Richard Duckworth, 1667.

1668, January, Hugh Wareing, 1678.

1678, July, Thomas Walmsley, 1685.

1685, April, James Abbot, 1687.

1687, December, Oliver Shaw, 1692.

1692, October, James Burton, 1704.

1704, October, James Livesey, 1715.

1715, February, Thomas Moon, 1727.

1727, July, Thomas Wright, 1731.

1732, March, Peter Livesey, 1743.

1743, February, Robert Sutton, 1749.

1749, August, Nicholas Parker, 1782.

1787, December, Thomas Exton, 1791.

1791, April, Thomas Jackson, Head.

1792, October, Christopher Inman, 1799.

1799, April, William Lutener, 1812.

1812, October, Ralph Leeming, 1814.

1814, November, Richard Garnett, 1819.

The office of usher dates from 1567, but the earliest names have not transpired : it was abolished in 1819, owing to lack of funds. The Rev. Thomas Jackson was the only usher promoted to the head-mastership.

III.—LIST OF SECRETARIES OR ACCOUNTANTS.

1586-1588, John Radclyff.

1588-1589, Edward Welsh.

Temporarily, Thomas Astley.

1591, September 30th, Oliver Lyvesay.

1622, September 29th, Roger Gelibronde.

1629, December 21st, Richarde Talbott.

1630, December 21st, Adam Boulton.

1655, December 21st, Launcelott Boulton.

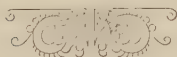
- 1662, January 12th, Thomas Whalley.
1672, December 21st, Thomas Whalley (son).
1712, December 21st, The Headmaster (Smith).
1736, December 21st, Henry ffeilden.
1746, December 21st, John Whalley.
1786, James Radcliffe.
1808, September 26th, James Neville.
1819, January 25th, Dixon Robinson.
1825, December 21st, Rev. Dr. Whittaker.
1845, December 22nd, Thomas Ainsworth.
1870, January 20th, A. I. Robinson.

IV.—NOTEWORTHY DONATIONS AND INVESTMENTS.

“They say, if money go before, all ways do lie open.”
—“Merry Wives of Windsor.”

- 1552.—Endowment of £4 7s. 4d. per annum—grant of the Duchy of Lancaster (tax about 3s.)
1589.—Voluntary general subscriptions amounting to £132 13s. 6d. and £23 3s. 6d. the following year.
1590.—Invested in a Rent Charge of £20 on the estate of Farnhill Peel (Yorks.)
1605.—John Astley bequeathed nearly all his goods (value £60).
1605.—Sixteen volumes bequeathed by George Leyland.
1660.—Lands purchased in Mellor, rental about £10.
1694.—Sir Edmund Asheton completed a series of annual donations, amounting to £90.
1747.—A messuage or tenement called Pianot Nest, in Mellor, purchased for £113—amassed interest on stock from George Ward, a weaver.
1793.—The Mellor lands exchanged for others in the locality.

- 1812.—Lands purchased in Dilworth, rent £110; now in the hands of the Preston Waterworks, who pay £85 a year.
- 1837.—William Bentham bequeathed a sum of £300. Of this, £287 10s. and a little cash in hand (£38 10s.) were devoted to the purchase of ground rents in St. Alban's, Blackburn, amounting (in 1891) to £13 5s. (£12 18s. 6d. tax free).
- 1878.—John Tattersall gave on trust, for a University Scholarship (or Scholarships) of £50, fifty-eight Blackburn Waterworks Annuities of 16s. The interest is now, through profitable re-investment of surplus, about £75 a year.
- 1885.—Mrs. Dodgson bequeathed the munificent sum of £10,000. Death duties, etc., accounted for £1,000; a sum of £3,168 was devoted to the new building fund; the remainder yields on investment the sum of £170 17s. a year.
- 1885.—Public subscriptions to the new building fund amounted to £3,168.



ADDENDUM.

THE TENTH ITER OF ANTONINUS

And the Roman Road through Blackburn.—Vid. Page 4, Line 30.

The Tenth Iter has been conclusively shown by Mr. W. Thompson Watkin to have been as follows :—

Whitley Castle—Kirkby Thore—Barrowbridge—Overborough—
Ribchester—Wigan—Manchester, &c., corresponding to

Glanoventa—Galava—Alone—Galacum—Bremetonacis—Coccio
—Mancunio, &c.

The Roman name of Ribchester was thus Bremetonacum, and the Roman road through Blackburn was not directly the route taken by Antoninus—a fact easily accounted for by the necessity of including Wigan (Coccium). The “Mancunium—Bremetonacum” was, however, a first-class military road of the Higher Empire, being, in fact, the main highway of the West. It passed through the dense forests and over the bleak heights that later yielded place to Blackburn; while the site of a small look-out station by its side at Mellor is still plainly visible.

J. G.

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